THE MARYLAND YELLOWTHROAT

Newsletter of the Maryland Ornithological Society

VOL. 20, NO. 4 SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2000

DNR Reports . . .
by Glenn Therres

Environmental contamination is not a pretty thing. This past spring a major oil spill occurred in the Patuxent River and we got a first-hand view of the situation. We not only viewed the situation, we were actively involved in damage control and assessment along with a host of others.

On April 7th approximately 111,000 gallons of fuel oil spilled from a ruptured pipe providing fuel to the Chalk Point Generating Station along the Patuxent River. The spill initially leaked into a tidal marsh in Swanson Creek. Once discovered the spill was contained, but due to high winds, heavy rains, and high tides the oil escaped from the containment booms and became free floating in Swanson Creek and beyond. The oil spread approximately 17 miles down the Patuxent River and into several downstream tributaries, oiling 40 miles of shoreline within days of the spill.

The number of agencies and individuals responding to the spill were incredible. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assumed the lead role coordinating the clean-up efforts. The U.S. Coast Guard assumed command of daily clean-up activities. The Maryland Department of the Environment was intimately involved in the clean-up, as were several consulting firms that deal with oil spill responses. Clean-up crews from around the country were brought in. Hundreds of people were working day and night for several weeks after the spill occurred. Daily assessments were conducted by field crews and helicopter overflights to identify areas in need of clean-up and to gauge the effectiveness of the efforts.

DNR and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) were there to assess fish and wildlife damage as a result of the spill, collect evidence, participate on SCAT teams, and help rescue oiled wildlife. Tri-State Bird Rescue from Wilmington, Delaware was brought in to coordinate wildlife rescue efforts with the help of Chesapeake Wildlife Sanctuary, the largest local wildlife rehabilitation facility. During the first week of the spill, we had crews walking the shorelines looking for dead and injured wildlife. Aerial surveys of waterfowl and other aquatic birds were conducted to determine which species and how many were in the contaminated area.

Fortunately for migratory birds, the oil spill occurred at the time of year when most of the waterfowl wintering on the Patuxent River had already departed and before most of the spring migrants had arrived. The only water-

(continued on page 3, column 1)

Gail Vaughn

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Gail Vaughn of Salisbury, MD. Gail and Charlie Vaughn have been long-time fixtures of the MD Ornithological Society and of the Maryland birding scene. One seldom saw one without the other, in the field, at countless tally rallies, and at MOS gatherings. Gail had been fighting a long-term illness over the past few years and she and Charlie went to Alaska this summer to try to put it behind them. After Gail saw her 703rd North American life bird she was taken ill and they cut short their vacation and returned to Salisbury. Gail was admitted to the hospital there and died Saturday, July 22, 2000. Everyone who knew Gail will miss her. You may send your messages of condolence to Charlie at his home, 1306 Frederick Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801.

John Clegg

Another sad note this month is news we received of the passing of John Clegg. John was President of the Howard County Bird Club in 1978-1979 and in 1985-1987. John died while on a business trip on July 23, 2000. You may send your messages of condolence to his wife Eileen at 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD 21044.

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Chapter Chatter
by Martha Waugh

Howard Mourns Loss — John Clegg, president of the Howard County Chapter 1978-9 and 1985-7 and state director 1979-80, died unexpectedly of a heart attack at age 52 on July 24 while on a business trip to Azerbaijan. His wife, Eileen, the long time coordinator of the club's extremely successful seed sales, was strongly supported in this important initiative by John's willing administrative talent, strong back, and delightful sense of humor. Eileen and their 17 year old son, Andrew, are at home at 6007 Flywheel Court, Columbia, MD 21044. John had a slight hearing loss, but he was renowned for his keen eyesight and could spot an elusive bird far in the distance before even those with binoculars. He is also remembered for a 1985 May Count during which he and Dave Harvey spotted two Upland Sandpipers and were roundly disbelieved until the next day when many others saw them as well. The experience left him with a half-joking philosophy, "If I have to write it up, I didn't see it."

Tri-County Loses Long-time Member — Gail Vaughn died in July 22 in Salisbury, MD. Gail and Charlie Vaughn have been long-time supporters of the MD Ornithological Society and fixtures of the Maryland birding scene. One seldom saw one without the other, in the field, at countless tally rallies, and at MOS gatherings. Gail had been fighting a long-term illness over the past few years and she and Charlie went to Alaska this summer to try to put it behind them. After Gail saw her 703rd North American life bird she was taken ill and they cut short their vacation to return to the Salisbury hospital where she succumbed. Messages of condolence may be sent to Charlie at their home, 1306 Frederick Avenue, Salisbury, MD 21801.

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Research Grant Deadline Approaching Fast

by Dave Brinker

The Maryland Ornithological Society announces the availability of research grants for ornithological research to be conducted in the State of Maryland. Grants are generally limited to amounts less than $2,000. If the research is to be done at or near one of the MOS sanctuaries, the society may be able to provide accommodations at a nominal cost. Proposals are reviewed twice annually with deadlines of **1 December** and **1 June** with award notification in approximately eight weeks. For application guidelines and further information write:

David F. Brinker
MOS Research Committee
1200 Frederick Road
Catonsville, MD 21228

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If you have a change of address or are experiencing difficulties with MOS mailings, contact the Mailing List Coordinator, William Guion, 8007 Martown Road, Laurel, MD 20723, (301) 490-0444.

All other questions regarding the Maryland Ornithological Society should be referred to the Executive Secretary, Larry Fry, 1202 Ridge Rd., Pylesville, MD 21132, (410) 452-8539 or at (800) 823-0050 (410-244-0032 in the Baltimore calling area). Larry's e-mail address is:
jlfry@netfox.net

For information on advertising rates and deadlines, contact the editor.

Copy deadlines for the November/December issue are:
November-January Calendar Activities:
September 25

All Other Submissions:
October 1

Western Atlantic Shorebird Association

by Gene Scarpulla

The Western Atlantic Shorebird Association (WASA) is a consortium of Federal, state, local, and nonprofit organizations,developed to promote the integration of shorebird research, monitoring, and education along the Western Atlantic Flyway to support management efforts. WASA attempts to increase shorebird observations by capitalizing on the expertise of avid birders along the flyway. (I submit my weekly Hart-Miller Island shorebird data to WASA.) WASA brings birders, researchers, and system-wide programs together towards improving the understanding and management of shorebirds and their habitats along the Western Atlantic Flyway. WASA is funded and run jointly by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS), and the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS).

Eric Simms, Educational Technology Coordinator of the Institute of Marine and Coastal Sciences at Rutgers University, has asked me to investigate what interest MOS and MDOsprey members might have in a WASA presentation that could be given here in Maryland. They are currently developing the presentation, which will include some background on WASA, a description of WASA research projects, a review of the WASA web site, and will inform and train volunteers about how to participate as observers for WASA shorebird research projects. They anticipate the presentations happening in late summer or early fall.

They are developing an on-line tutorial that will eventually be available as a link on the WASA web site. The tutorial will include sections that familiarize volunteers with how to read band combinations, how to estimate flock sizes, how to perform flock scans for bands, and how to record and report their data.

More information about WASA can be found at their website: www.vex.net/~hopscotc/shorebirds/

If you might be interested in attending a WASA presentation given here in Maryland, please contact me, Gene Scarpulla, by phone at (410) 388-0852 (evenings) or by e-mail at ejscarp@juno.com.

Help, Help !

The MOS has two positions opening up this Fall on the Board of Directors, important positions that we need to fill as soon as possible. The first is that of Audit Committee Chair. To quote from the MOS Manual of Operations, the person filling this position is "responsible for auditing the books of the Treasurer at least one week before the annual membership meeting and to report to the members at that meeting." The Audit Committee Chairman must not hold any other position in MOS and should have an accounting/auditing background. Given the size and complexity of the various MOS accounts, this has become a most important position in the organization.

The second vacancy is that of Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM) Coordinator. This person serves as the MOS representative on the Board of the EFM, works with the EFM to encourage workplace giving, and reports to the MOS Board of Directors on a continuing basis. Carol Jelich has filled this position quite ably for the past three years but her expanding participation in other volunteer positions has led her to ask for a replacement in this particular role. She will remain on for a reasonable period of time as we search for a successor and will work with that successor to help them fit into the job.

Both positions really need to be filled as soon as possible. If either one sounds like a way you could contribute to MOS, please get in touch with President Karen Morley as soon as possible!

On a related note, Fran Saunders, the MOS State Website Coordinator and the Chair of the MOS Publicity Committee, is looking for a few good volunteers to serve in both of these areas. She needs a few people who would like to take on responsibility for maintaining and enhancing segments of the State Website and she needs a few folks to work with her on improving MOS's publicity outreach capability. If you're interested in working on either of these Committees, contact Fran by e-mail at fcsaunders@worldnet.att.net.

DNR Reports . . .

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fowl present in the spill area were local mallards, Canada geese, and mute swans, a couple hundred migrating ruddy ducks, and a few buffleheads. Some grebes, cormorants, gulls, and a few terns were also in the area. Ospreys had already started nesting. Six active bald eagle nests and two great blue heron rookeries were in the vicinity of the spill or downstream.

Direct mortality of wildlife was relatively low (in the hundreds, not thousands). Most affected were muskrats and other small animals that occupied the marsh where the spill originally occurred. Of the birds, ruddy ducks were the most affected. Within 10 days after the spill 39 ruddy ducks were known dead and probably an equivalent number had died and sank before they could be retrieved. Other birds found dead included mallard, cormorant, American coot, Virginia rail, ring-billed gull, belted kingfisher, common grackle, and savannah sparrow. Another hundred birds were captured alive and treated by the rehabilitators, with the vast majority of those being mallards and ruddy ducks. Fish killed as a result of the oil spill was very low. The majority of the fish killed were those found in association with the tidal marsh in Swanson Creek. No major fish kill resulted, thus there was no increased attraction to the area for avian scavengers or fish eaters.

We did not detect impacts to nesting fish-eating birds in the vicinity of the spill. Biologists from DNR and the USFWS monitored the reproductive success of the bald eagles and great blue herons in the area and found production to be normal. Craig Koppie of the USFWS climbed into the three bald eagle nests closest to the spill and found no oiled young. He also inspected several great blue heron nests and found no oiled eggs or young. Steve Cardano and biologists from PEPCO monitored osprey nesting on the Patuxent River and found no differences in osprey nest success or productivity during the year of the spill compared to previous years. All good news.

The bad news was that a good portion of the Swanson Creek marsh was too oiled and disturbed by the clean-up efforts for the birds to use. Other marshes were slightly oiled and which might have affected some nesting. The restoration of these wetlands is a ways off.

For the birds, this oil spill could have been much more devastating than it was. Timing is everything!

Chapter Chatter

(continued from page 1, column 3)

George Wilmot, MOS Member, Honored — On July 11, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Southern Maryland Audubon Society dedicated the foot trail to the Mattawoman Creek in the Mattawoman Natural Environment Area (MNEA) to George Wilmot. George was a prime force in getting the Mattawoman Wildlands area protected first as a natural environment area and, most recently, as a wildlands. He continues to work for strong protection of the Mattawoman Creek. The trail begins on Rt. 224 in Charles County. Rt. 224 is off Rt. 225 which runs between Rt. 301 at La Plata and Rt. 210, Indian Highway. The foot trail itself is on the right shortly after the second sign (on the left) to Lackey High School and just before the Smallwood State Park sign. Park off the shoulder at the site. George is a coordinator of the Charles County MOS May Count and was the Charles County coordinator for the Maryland Atlas, in addition to writing up five species. George also does a Breeding Bird Survey route. For five years the Southern Maryland Audubon Society has done FID surveys on public lands, under George's leadership, as part of the Maryland Partners-in-Flight program.

Ann Arundel Report on Costa Rica — Dotty Mumford reported in the Ann Arundel newsletter on a fascinating trip to Costa Rica led by Bob Ringler. Al Haury, Darius & Paula Ecker, Susan & Ron Polniaszek, Ruth Denit, Barbara & George Gaffney, Jeanne Woods, Mary & Brent Byers, and Helen Zeichner were also in the party. They visited four locations, with two full days of birding at each. The group list was close to 350 species. At Finca La Selva, Dotty listed 51 species during a two hour walk. She accomplished this even though she had to cross a swinging bridge over the river six times despite her tendency to have motion illness. Dotty enjoyed seeing Resplendent Quetzal, Spotted Wood-quail, Slatey-tailed Trogan, Collared Aracari, Bare-throated Tiger Heron, and American Pygmy Kingfisher, among others as well as delighting in finding flocks of "our" birds: Eastern Kingbirds, orioles, swallows, swifts, and warblers.

Howard Birders Make the Sun's Front Page But What Are They Seeing in Their Binoculars? — The front page of the Baltimore Sun of July 31 featured Bob and Joanne Solem with several pictures on them on page 4A. For the last few years, they have been training their binoculars on dragonflies and damselflies as well as birds. According to the Sun, dragonfly-watching is the "latest trend in the nature world." A new book, "Dragonflies through Binoculars edited by Jeffrey Glassberg, is on its way to bookstores which will pull together identification clues for dragonflies in all regions of the country. Richard Orr, a Columbia entomologist considered the foremost export on dragonflies and damselflies believes the guide will allow dragonflies to attract watchers and admirers the way early guides made birds and butterflies more interesting and accessible to non-scientists. Bob and Joanne have been concentrating on Howard County and have identified more than 80 species, including five spotted for the first time in the county last year. Joanne Solem said, "Birders are becoming aware of anything that flies. That's a really nice thing, to think the world of natural history is attracting some attention."

Six Montgomery County Stalwarts Pitch in the World Series — Six Montgomery Chapter members formed teams for the New Jersey May marathon known as the World Series of Birding. Jim Green, Don Simonson, and Byron Swift formed "The Holy Order of Loggerhead Shrikes" to raise funds for Pronatura, a Mexican nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and conserving Mexico's biodiversity. John Bjerke, Mark Garland, and Paul Pisano plus non-MOSer Tom Field teamed up for the Audubon Naturalist Society as "The Pandioniums." Sticking to birding Cape May County, New Jersey, and competing against more than 60 other teams from the US and UK, the Shrikes found 150 birds and $650 for Pronatura. The Pandioniums scored 170, just 10 behind the 180 racked up by the two winning teams, one of which of course, was our own state MOS "Maryland Yellowthroats." Don Simonson reports that by 3 p.m. on the big day, the team had 132 species and severe energy loss. "Discovery of a Yellow-crowned Night-Heron and a functioning soft ice-cream stand near Nummy Island revived the team." Man does not live by birding alone.

Baltimore Bird Club Recruits Young Members by E-Mail — One of the BBC's newest members, Tony Bezanson, 18 years old, has visited and birded in Maryland, but he lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia and stays connected with the Baltimore Bird Club (BBC) through the Internet. He really enjoys some of "our" locals that are rare in Halifax: Cardinal, Tufted Titmouse, and Carolina Chickadee. Tony wrote an article about the birds of Halifax for the BBC's Chip Notes. He reported that one of his favorite birding spots is Point Pleasant Park, near Halifax. The birds there are very people oriented and he actually found or was found by a Black-capped Chickadee and a Red-breasted Nuthatch who flew into his hand to get bread crumbs.

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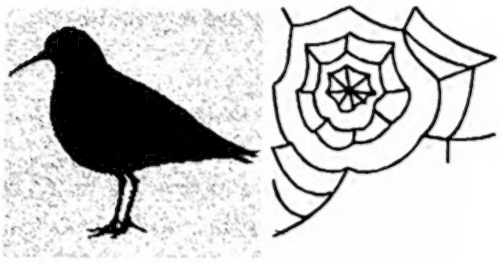
Birds on the Web



Shorebirds on the Web

by Fran Saunders

Shorebirding on the World Wide Web is an excellent way to prepare for field exploration, but the information you'll find may not always be up-to-date. However, there are a wide variety of sites to choose from. Many exhibit photos of various species, others provide information about migration and shorebird viewing sites. This is one area that has superb educational resources for youth projects. If you're ready to explore, then grab your mouse and let's surf!

Several sites offer a selection or gallery of shorebird photos, usually by linking to photos found elsewhere (a web taboo without the permission of the copyright holder). Some are more successful than others. At *Images of NA Shorebirds*, for instance, many of the links are broken. The *International Shorebird Gallery*, lists links to other sights that may have photos. Some sites are more specialized. *Shorebirds from Attu* concentrates on that environment, while *Shorebirds Gallery – Birds as Art* is a collection of the photos of Arthur Morris. The former offers you three viewing options. It shows pix in the form of slide show loops that are low resolution gif files and very slow to load. You may also select the montage view, however, and watch faster loading jpg renditions of the originals. Lastly, there is a species index you can use to view one species at a time. Some of the jpgs are artistic rather than realistic. You should take a look at the Morris prints, even if you have no desire to buy. They are simply delightful. Other less specialized sites which we have talked about before, such as the Patuxent Identification Section, offer more active links and descriptive data as well.

General, all-around shorebird sites include *Shorebird Watcher* and the *Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network*. *Shorebird Watcher* is a national hub of various resources. It provides links and information about species, festivals and workshops, projects, studies, and conservation issues. One of the conservation issues presented is the Delaware Bay Horseshoe Crab crisis. There is also a bibliography of mostly hardcopy materials and a shorebird quiz. This site includes the *International Shorebird Gallery* mentioned above. Manomet Observatory and Wetlands International sponsor the *Shorebird Reserve Network*. It provides information on the study and conservation of shorebirds, with a strong emphasis on ecology. The *Network* has identified and lists 42 sites worldwide that are significant for shorebird conservation. The Delaware Bay area is not only listed, but represents one of the few U.S. sites identified. Two fact sheets of general interest are one produced by the Fish and Wildlife Service, *Shorebird Fact Sheet*, and another, *Shorebirds: Winging Between the Hemispheres*. The USF&WS sheet is organized by species and contains a description of each, with information about nests, winter residence and migration. It is also available through the *Sister Schools Program* Site below.

A new entrant, brought to our attention by Gene Scarpulla, is the site produced by the *Western Atlantic Shorebird Association*. This site is sponsored by NOAA, USF&WS, and the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Although still under development, the site offers the opportunity to contribute to a sightings data base. From these sightings reports, known localities of shorebird concentrations are mapped for you to study online. This promises to be an exciting site. For information about local Maryland shorebird viewing sites, you need go no further than the MOS State Web Site. Remember that our *Shorebirding in Maryland* locator will give you directions to the known hotspots in the State.

The top sites on shorebirding are devoted, not surprisingly, to species migration, although the information is sometimes dated. The *Shorebird Migration* site shows maps by species, although data is confined to the lower 48 states. It has another section on vagrants and some regional data. The *USGS Biogeographical Profiles of Shorebird Migration* includes maps, chronologies, and habitat tables. The *Sister Schools Program* site, sponsored by the USF&WS, is an excellent educational tool. Arctic nesting shorebirds are tracked as they migrate from wintering grounds in Latin America, Hawaii and Australia to their nesting grounds in Alaska, Canada and the Russian Far East. Produced from reports submitted by participating schools and other interested parties, the site includes photos, videos, maps, and educational materials. The site also links to the program listserv, a discussion list that provides the up-to-date information on shorebird news. Don't forget that some shorebirds may also be tracked via *BirdCast*, a site that tracks migrating neo-tropical migrants as they move through the Mid-Atlantic region by using radar imagery which depicts bird movements. This is another excellent site, although not devoted only to shorebirds.

In addition to sites with national or worldwide focus, there are many devoted to regional birding or issues. *Shorebird Crisis of Delaware Bay* gives a good review of the history, the current threat, and conservation efforts, although the material is dated (December 1998). *Discover Delaware Bay Shorebirds*, a joint project from the States of New Jersey and Delaware, reviews shorebirding ecology and trends for the region. Using a search engine you can locate sites that explore other regions of the country that have shorebird concentrations. We easily located some from Oregon, and there are likely others. And if you're headed to the shore for your next trip, don't forget to check in at NOAA first and take a good look at the *Tide Predictor* so you can plan your arrival for optimum viewing.

In addition to these sites, individual articles and studies from the USGS, Birder's World and others also can be found by using your search engine. Speaking of search engines, have you tried Google (http://www.google.com/)? If you have a favorite shorebird site that is not mentioned here, tell us about it and we will mention it in a future update.

Also, as usual, the links printed here will be available online at the MOS State Web Site so you can move from site to site easily. Click on the links graphic near the bottom of the home page at http://wwwMDBirds.org/. We have a full set of new searches for you this year, but if you'd like to see us cover a special area, let me know at webmaster@MDBirds.org.

Now, just a word about the local scene: The Howard County Bird Club site has moved to http:// www.howardbirds.org/. See you in November!

Two Bills for Birds and One Against

by Maureen F. Harvey

The Conservation Connection

Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act Signed by Clinton

Shireen Gonzaga posted the following information on MDOSPREY, excerpted from the Audubon Advisory, a publication that tracks wildlife conservation-related legislation: "Great news! In an important victory for birds, President Clinton signed into law the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act, the only bill in Congress that directly helps songbirds. Signed on July 20, the new law establishes a fund to support partnership programs that will conserve and enhance habitat of neotropical migratory birds such as Kirtland's Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Black-capped Vireo and Kentucky Warbler. At least 75% of the money will go to projects in the Caribbean and Latin America, where the birds spend their winters. It authorizes $5 million per year for five years and funds a maximum of 25% of the money for each project. The remainder will be raised or contributed by partners such as businesses, non-governmental organizations and foreign nations.

Approximately 5 billion birds of 500 species, including endangered species, migrate to North America from wintering grounds in Latin America and the Caribbean annually. Many thanks to Senator Abraham (R-MI), who championed this legislation through the Senate, along with Senator Daschle (D-SD) and the late Senator Chafee (R-RI), the original co-sponsors."

Conservation and Reinvestment Act (CARA) Progresses

CARA has made good progress during the 106th Congress' legislation sessions. The bill passed the full House vote in mid-May, passed through the final Senate Committee hoop in mid-July, and should come up for vote in the full Senate soon. For current news visit the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies' website at http://www.teaming.com.

CARA was penned by two Congressmen, Don Young (R-AK) and George Miller (D-CA), to answer pressure from all of the State Teaming With Wildlife Coalitions to provide permanent funding for wildlife and other conservation programs. The bill pulls Federal revenues from Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and mineral operations, approximately 2.8 billion dollars per year, from the general budget. The OCS revenues will be used to fund eight broad conservation areas to be administered by the States. The eight conservation areas are each described in Titles to H.R. 701 and cover programs ranging from coastline restoration to urban park rehabilitation. Title III has been the focus of the Maryland teaming With Wildlife Coalition. This title provides permanent funding for wildlife conservation and wildlife-associated recreation and education. In its current form, CARA would provide a total of almost $37 million to Maryland, with $5 million for Title III programs.

Proposed Hunting Season for Double-crested Cormorants Opposed by ABC

Gerald W. Winegrad, Vice President for Policy, American Bird Conservancy (ABC), asked member organizations, including the MOS, to sign a letter opposing a hunting season for Double-crested Cormorants. He stated in his e-mail to the MOS, "On Thursday (July 20), Rep. Saxton's Fisheries, Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans and Wildlife Subcommittee is due to vote on this bill to mandate a hunting season on Double-crested Cormorants, HR 3118. The bill mandates the Secretary of Interior to permit states to initiate a hunting season coinciding w/waterfowl season with a ten bird a day bag limit. The FWS also opposes this legislation. **This is not just about cormorants as all fish eating birds may be under attack as scapegoats for fishery declines**." The MOS signed the well-written letter opposing the ill-conceived legislation. Highlights of the letter follow:

"Dear Congressman Saxton:

On Thursday, July 20, the House resources Subcommittee on Fisheries Conservation, Wildlife and Oceans is scheduled to mark up HR 3118 an ill-conceived bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to issue regulations under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act to authorize states to establish hunting seasons for Double-Crested Cormorants. We request that you oppose this legislation. **The legislation is the product of increasing Cormorant populations and sport fishing**

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Shorebirding Web Links

http://www.utm.edu/~phertzel/shimages.htm — Images of NA Shorebirds
http://home.netcom.com/~djhoff/sbimage.html — International Shorebird Gallery
http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/onLoc/onLocDirs/CAPECOD/gallery/index.html — Shorebirds Gallery: Birds as Art
http://www.attu.com/slidshow.htm — Shorebirds from Attu
http://home.netcom.com/~djhoff/shorebrd.html#geninfo — Shorebird Watcher
http://www.manomet.org/WHSRN.htm — Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network
http://www.fws.gov/r7enved/fshrfact.html — Shorebird Fact Sheet
http://migratorybirds.fws.gov/shrbird/shrbird.html — Shorebirds: Winging Between Hemispheres
http://www.vex.net/~hopscotc/shorebirds/ — Western Atlantic Shorebird Association
http://www.MDBirds.org/shorebirds.html — Shorebirding in Maryland
http://www.utm.edu/~phertzel/migration.htm — Shorebird Migration
http://www.mesc.usgs.gov/shorebirds/ — USGS Biogeographical Profiles of Shorebird Migration
http://www.fws.gov/r7enved/sssp.html — USFWS Shorebird Sister Schools Program
http://www.birdsource.org/BirdCast/ — BirdCast
http://www.virtualbirder.com/vbirder/realbirds/dbhsc/index.html — Shorebird Crisis of Delaware Bay
http://www.state.nj.us/drbc/shorebirds/shorebhome.htm — Discover Delaware Bay Shorebirds
http://co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/tp4days.html — NOAA Tide Predictor

The MOS Dateline

September 2000 through August 2001

September

1	Membership year commences—renew now!
9	State Board Meeting, Harford County
16	Fall Count
25	Deadline for Nov/Dec/Jan Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

October

1	Deadline for Nov/Dec ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
28-29	Irish Grove Fall Work Weekend

November

15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
25	Deadline for Jan/Feb/Mar Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

December

1	Deadline for Jan/Feb ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
9	State Board Meeting, Montgomery
15	Deadline to submit Fall (August to November) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
16	Christmas Count Season Begins
31	Christmas Count Season Ends

January

10	Conference Pin Contest Entries Due to John Malcolm
15	Mid-Winter Count Season Begins
25	Deadline for Mar/Apr/May Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
31	Scholarship Applications Due to Jean Fry

February

1	Deadline for Mar/Apr ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
1	State MOS Budget Submissions Due to Paul Zucker
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
15	Mid-Winter Count Season Ends
TBA	MD/DC Records Committee Annual Meeting

March

10	State Board Meeting, Baltimore
15	Deadline to submit Winter (December to February) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz
25	Deadline for May/Jun/Jul/Aug Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman
TBA	Irish Grove Spring Work Weekend

April

1	Deadline for May/Jun ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
TBA	Carey Run Spring Work Weekend

May

12	May Count
12	2001 World Series of Birding (Support your Yellowthroats!)
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley

June

1	MOS Grant Applications Due to David Brinker
10	State Board Meeting, Location TBA
15	Deadline to submit Spring (March to May) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

July

25	Deadline for Sept/Oct/Nov Meeting/Field Trip Schedule Submission to Les Eastman

August

1	Deadline for Sept/Oct ***Yellowthroat*** Submissions to Norm Saunders
10-12	Annual MOS Conference, Salisbury
11	Chapter & Committee Annual Reports due to MOS President
15	Board Meeting Agenda Items Due To Karen Morley
15	Deadline to submit Summer (June & July) bird sightings to Dan Southworth and to Jim Stasz

2000-2001 Officers of the Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

(800) 823-0050 - voicemail

		Officers	
President:	Karen Morley	2719 N. Calvert St., Baltimore, MD 21218	(410)235-4001
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Bylaws:	Tom Loomis	11502 Allview Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705	(301) 937-2257
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Conference coordinator:	Vacant		
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MD/DC Records:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Publications:			
MD Birdlife	Chandler S. Robbins	Migratory Bird Research, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20811	(301) 498-0281
Season Reports:	Dan & Linda Southworth	9763 Early Spring Way, Columbia, MD 21046	(301) 490-5648
MD Yellowthroat:	Norm Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(202) 606-5701 -day (301) 989-9035 -eve
Calendar:	Les Eastman	4034 Wilkinson Rd., Havre de Grace, MD 21078	(410) 436-3490 -day (410) 734-6969 -eve
State MOS Website	Fran Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(301) 989-9035
Publicity:	Fran Saunders	1261 Cavendish Dr., Colesville, MD 20905	(301) 989-9035
Research:	David F. Brinker	1200 Frederick Rd., Catonsville, MD 21228	(410) 744-8539
Sanctuary:	Dorothy Mumford	1900 Generals Hwy, Annapolis, MD 21401	(410) 849-8336
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Seasonal Counts	Bob Ringler	6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784	(410) 549-6031
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Mid-Winter Subcomm.:	Paul Jung	12606 Memory Lane, Bowie, MD 20715-1608	
Fall Subcomm.:	Chuck Stirrat	13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042	(410) 531-2417
		Other Committees and Projects	
Atlas:	Jane Coskren	6324 Sandchain Rd., Columbia, MD 21045	(410) 381-7344
Cavity-Nesting:	Mark Johnson	3204 Bryson Ct., Baldwin, MD 21013	(410) 692-5978
County Lists:	Phil Davis	2549 Vale Ct., Davidsonville, MD 21035	(301) 261-0184
Mailing list:	William Guion	8007 Martown Rd., Laurel, MD 20723	(301) 490-0444
Nominations:	David Harvey	302 Chelsea Ct., Sykesville, MD 21784	(410) 795-3117
Env. Fund Liaison:	Carol Jelich	682 Black Forest Rd., Annapolis, MD 21401	(410) 757-8158
		Chapter Presidents	
Allegany:	Charles Hager	124 Pine St., Frostburg, MD 21532	(301) 689-5344
Anne Arundel:	Larry Zoller	278 Laguna Circle, Severna park, MD 21146	(410) 647-9354
Baltimore:	Helene Gardel	211 Hawthorn Road , Baltimore MD 21210	(410) 889-7116
Caroline:	Danny Poet	P.O. Box 223, Queenstown, MD 21658	(410) 827-8651
Carroll:	Amy Hoffman	7263 Norris Ave., Sykesville, MD 21784	(410) 549-3598
Cecil:	Leslie Fisher	6 Woodview Ln., North East, MD 21901	(410) 658-2427
Frederick:	Wilbur Hershberger	9093 Fox Ridge Dr., Union Bridge, MD 21791	(301) 898-9088
Harford:	Debbie Delevan	3504 Advocate Hill Dr., Jarettsville, MD 21084	(410) 692-9305
Howard:	Don Waugh	9522 Angelina Cir, Columbia MD 21045	(410)381-8841
Jug Bay:	Dale Johnson	4932 Chestnut St., Shadyside, MD 20772	(410) 867-7743
Kent:	Pat Wilson	430 Rosin Drive., Chestertown MD 21620	(410) 778-1005
Montgomery:	Michael Bowen	8609 Ewing Drive, Bethesda MD 20817	(301) 530-5764
Patuxent:	Tom Loomis	11502 Allview Dr., Beltsville, MD 20705	(301) 937-2257
Talbot:	Wayne Bell	29590 Schwaninger Rd., Easton, MD 21601	(410) 820-6002
Tri-County:	Sam Dyke	P.O. Box 1212, Salisbury, MD 21802	(410) 742-5497
Washington:	Judy Lilga	18845 Burnside Bridge Road, Sharpsburg MD 21742	(301) 432-2276

Chapter Chatter

(continued from page 3, column 2)

Harford Hotspot Makes it to *Birder's World* — The February 2000 issue (vol. 14, no. 1) of *Birder's World* magazine features Conowingo Dam in the regular segment, "Birding Hotspot." According to "Wrenderings", Harford's own publication, "Author Ad Crable does a wonderful job of capturing the true and unique spirit of birdwatching at Conowingo Dam. Focusing on Conowingo's greatly rewarding, but often adverse, winter birding experience, the author covers everything from the more leisurely escape of eagle watching to the mayhem and challenge of gull identification. Definitely check this one out."

Montgomery County Chapter (MCC) Recognizes Young Students for Bird Projects — On April 1, an MOS-MCC panel of Linda Friedland, Jane Hill, Frank Witebsky and Sam Freiberg acted as Special Awards Judges and reviewed bird related projects at the Montgomery County Science Fair. Emily Myers, a twelve year old seventh grader at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bethesda presented an outstanding project entitled "Bird Observation Station." Emily kept meticulous records of times and duration of feeding of some twelve different species of wild birds at eight different feeders, mainly in the early morning and late afternoon. Her presentation, graphs, use of Excel spread sheets, notebook recordings, and beautifully outlined report impressed the panel unanimously. So much so that Montgomery president Linda Friedland gave her a card inviting her to attend any of our monthly meetings. On April 2, at the Science Fair Awards Ceremony, Sam Freiberg presented Emily Myers with a $100 gift certificate from the Chapter's Claudia Wilds Fund and also a one year junior membership to the Montgomery County Chapter of MOS. Two Certificates of Achievement Awards, beautifully illustrated by Gemma Radko, were also presented at the Awards Ceremony. One of the certificates was given to Yunling Lai from Montgomery Blair High School for a project that was well thought out and prepared and had very interesting conclusions. Its title was "The Individual Recognition of Conspecific Facial Features In Budgerigars (Melopsittacus undulatus)." However, since it dealt with laboratory experiments and not wild bird related projects, only a Certificate Of Achievement Award was given. The other Certificate of Achievement Award was given to Travis Patterson of Herbert Hoover Middle School for his project "Does Temperature Affect Birds?"

Caroline Chapter Welcomes Alums and a Special Visitor — The Caroline County Bird Club had a Pot Luck on June 18 as a reunion with former member Wilbur Rittenhouse and his wife Kay, while they were in the area. The Rittenhouses now reside in St. Louis, MO, but Wilbur, former Executive Director of the Adkins Arboretum, is now doing some consultant work for the Arboretum, which brings him back to the Eastern Shore from time to time. For those butterfly lovers, a Zebra Swallowtail has been officially reported for Caroline County for the first time. Henrietta Wood of Hillsboro made the report. These butterflies can also be seen at the Adkins Arboretum.

Montgomery MAPS Birds — MAPS stands for Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship. It is a program started by the Institute for Bird Populations (IBP) in Point Reyes, CA. It is modeled on the British constant effort banding, and concentrates on surveying breeding/nesting bird populations. The goals of MAPS are to help identify optimal habitat needed to maintain stable neotropical migrant populations, and to help formulate land management and conservation strategies that will help these migrants to nest successfully. Gemma Radko of the Montgomery Chapter has begun MAPS banding at Adventure, an MOS sanctuary located off Glen Road in Potomac, MD. She began in May and her last day of banding will be August 26th. She runs eight nets approximately once every ten days for six or seven hours. Through July she averaged about 10-12 birds each day and had banded over 50 birds of around 20 different species. Gemma became interested in banding after visiting active stations at Jug Bay, Patuxent Wildlife Refuge, and Bill Oberman's station in Virginia. She also took a MAPS training course sponsored by IBP, (with a little help from the Montgomery County chapter). The Chapter also helps purchase banding supplies and nets. She assists in migration banding projects at Patuxent, Jug Bay, and Catoctin Mountain Park during the spring and fall and, in her spare time, she is the designer for the Chapter's newsletter, "The Chat." Gemma would be glad to hear from anyone interested in the MAPS project at 301-607-4374.

Howard and Carroll to Feature Birders Exchange Video in Club Programs — The program directors for the Howard and Carroll chapters plan to feature the Birders Exchange during club programs this fall. The Exchange has a video and other materials available to interested groups. The Birders Exchange began "as a simple request for research equipment at a scientific conference in 1989 (and) has today become an activity that is soaring across international boundaries and politics, uniting the many philosophies of conservation and creating a growing world community of friends." The Exchange arranges for gifts of used equipment such binoculars, spotting scopes, tripods, camera and sound recording equipment, field guides to neotropical and North American birds, and backpacks to be given to appropriate scientists, teachers, students, and researchers in Central and South America and the Caribbean. In addition to these donations, the Exchange also needs people who are going to Latin America and the Caribbean to act as couriers. More information can be obtained from: Betty Peterson, Program Director, Birders Exchange, Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences, 81 Stage Point , P.O. Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345

Allegany Members Love Retirement; And Continue to Send Kids to Camp — Van and Claire Harris, longtime members of the Allegany Chapter, who love wildflowers as well as birds, have retired to the Quincy Retirement Village near Waynesboro, PA. They like their new home and report that there are both bird and wildflower activities in the area. Chapter members say they miss them and their nature expertise. George Gaffney has retired from Bell Atlantic so he and Barbara celebrated with a three-week vacation to Prince Edwards Island (where Barbara nailed No. 402, a Boreal Chickadee), an Elderhostel program in Nova Scotia, topped off with a visit to friends in Maine on Sebago Lake. Club President Chuck Hager and helpers ran another very successful children's camp at Carey Run June 12-18th, with nineteen children in attendance. For information about Allegany, check their new web site at www.nrac.wvu.edu/acbc/, a successful achievement by J.B. Churchill assisted by Jon Boone.

Montgomery's Valued Service Awards — Outgoing president Linda Friedland recognized the outstanding contributions of six Chapter members during her final year: Mike Bowen (the new Chapter president) for his many tasks as vice-president plus his cheerfulness; Cyndie Loeper for greeting and welcoming new members as the New Members Chair; Gemma Radko for initiating and leading beginners' field trips; Lydia Schindler for editing the Chapter newsletter, "The Chat;" Frank Sitebsky, for field trips, committee work, and support of chapter projects; and Howard Youth for leading field trips, contributing to the Site Guide and serving on the Publicity Committee.

Baltimore Bird Club Surveys Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park — Members of the Baltimore Bird Club have been conducting a bird survey of the Gwynn Falls/Leakin Park at the request of Steve Lee and the Friends of Gwynns Falls, in hopes of obtaining wildland status for the park. This park system, in west Baltimore, is one of the largest urban wilderness areas in the United States. It has an interesting mix of mature and secondary forests, riparian habitats, and old fields. While it holds only a small number of common breeding species, preliminary analysis of the surveys show the park complex to be a good attraction for migrants. In the first three and one half years of a five-year project, one hundred and ten species have been recorded. Highlights have included good densities of Baltimore Oriole nestings, Blue

Chapter Chatter

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Grosbeaks singing on territory in late June, twenty-two species of warblers either in passage or residence, and interesting migrants such as Lincoln Sparrows and Olive-sided Flycatchers. Eight surveys are conducted each year: one at mid-winter count, one in mid-April, one at May count, and again at the end of May, a late June survey, two in September with one coinciding with fall count, and a final survey in mid-October. Scott Crabtree has been coordinating this important contribution.

Stemmers Run Class Erects Bird Houses — On May 26, twenty-five eighth graders from Susan Steele's science class at Stemmers Run Middle School set up ten next boxes on Hart-Miller Island. Susan lives near the island and has been involved with the Chesapeake Bay Alliance in tree planting there. She successfully applied for a Chesapeake Bay Trust grant for lumber and expenses to erect the nest boxes. Jaime Blomeier, the shop teacher at Stemmers Run, helped her students build the boxes and, on the big day, Gene Scarpulla of the Baltimore Bird Club, accompanied them to Hart-Miller. They put up five Eastern Bluebird/Tree Swallow, three bat, and two Wood Duck nest boxes. These students have gone on to high school, but Susan's eighth graders this year will be fulfilling the next part of the grant, monitoring and reporting on the success of the project.

Howard County Hawk Watchers — Ralph and Jane Geuder attended the 25th anniversary conference of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMNA)at Split Rock Lodge, New Harmony, Pa. on June 8-11, 2000. The theme of the conference was "Past, Present and Future." About 150 hawk watchers heard presentations, went on field trips, bought from vendors and enjoyed the social activities surrounding the conference. Among the speakers were Jim Brett, Pete Dunne, Clay Sutton, Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, Laurie Goodrich, and Steve Hoffman. Papers were delivered on migration, identification, population trends and the past, present and future of hawk watching.

The River of Raptors - Part Three — Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza, of Pronatura Veracruz, Mexico, had an unexpected opportunity to visit the Howard Chapter after he attended the Hawk Migration Association meeting. Howard had contributed funds to the River of Raptors Project of Pronatura. Because it was too late to schedule a meeting, the club sponsored a potluck reception at the home of the current president, Don Waugh. Ernesto treated the members to an interesting guide to the area around the world's largest raptor migration flyway and the current operations and future plans of Pronatura in promoting ecotourism and conservation and education projects in the area. He mentioned that he became interested as a child, but the library had no guide books and he had no binoculars. He watched birds on his own, drew pictures of them, and tried to identify them by reading descriptions and matching them with his drawings. He showed us pictures of local children who were delighting in watching birds with donated binoculars. At the request of several members, Ernesto worked up a sample itinerary for birders who would like to visit Veracruz and experience the River of Raptors, in late September or mid-October. Ernesto Ruelas Inzunza can be contacted for information about Pronatura Veracruz at Departamento de Ecoturismo Sustentable, Antonio Ma. De Rivera 12-2, Apartado Postal 399, Xalapa, Veracruz, Mexico 9100, telephone _(28) 18 65 45 or email: pvecotours@infosel.net.mix/.

Fall Hawk Watching in Maryland

Washington Monument State Park: A regular but fairly informal watch atop the monument which straddles South Mountain in Boonesboro. One or more counters is present daily, at least through the morning hours; volunteers are most needed in the afternoons. Located off Alt. Route 40, near Boonsboro, MD. Take I-70 to Frederick and go West on Alt. 40 to Monument Road. Take Monument Road to the park entrance. Follow the right fork about 1/2 mile into the park to the Monument Trail. The hawkwatch is located at the top of the tower, about a 1/4 mile walk uphill. For further information about the hawkwatch call Lee Murray at 301-739-3463; to determine if the park is open, call park headquarters at 301-701-392-4491. The view from the stone tower is breathtaking. As its name implies, the tower is a monument to our first President. The view alone is worth the visit, but since the Cumberland Valley is a migatory bird flyway, the park offers excellent all around birdwatching opportunities. The Appalachian Trail winds through the park and passes the base of the monument.

Town Hill: This relatively new site, located in Allegany County, features a long, roofed shelter with a great view of the valley to the east. Take I-68 west through Hancock past Sidling Hill; three miles across the Washington-Allegany county line, take Scenic US 40 to the top of Town Hill. The Town Hill Inn will be on your right, the hawkwatch on your left.

Turkey Point: Another new hawkwatch, this one located in Cecil County, is near North East, MD, in the Elk Neck State Park. Take I-95 to Exit 100. Go South on Route 272 to the end of the road. Walk approximately 1 mile to the site. The hawkwatch will be in operation most days from September 1 through Thanksgiving and the counters welcome visitors. In fall 1996, over 5,000 raptors were counted. Call Leslie Fisher for additional information at 410-658-2427 or send her e-mail at gonbrdn@dol.net.

Table Rock: This Garrett County site is located along Table Rock Road at the crest of Backbone Mountain and just off of US route 50 approximately two miles east of Red House Md. Red House is located at the intersection of US route 50 and route 219 app. 10 miles southwest of Oakland, Md. If you're coming from Red House and heading east on route 50, Table Rock road turns off to the right in a right-hand turn almost directly at the crest of the mountain. There is a small clearing on the right hand side of the road almost as soon as you turn onto Table Rock Road. With care you can pull your vehicle into the clearing. Or you can just park your car along the side of the road by the clearing. Claudia Wilds mentions this general area in her book, *Finding Birds in the National Capital Area* but may not have mentioned the hawk-watching aspect. She touts an area farther out Table Rock road as being good for Mourning Warblers and other species. Olin Pettingill also mentions this area in his older *Birding Finding East.* The site can be very productive. The drawbacks are no facilities and a lot of local traffic. There is a small restaurant along route 219 heading into Oakland that offers good home-cooked style food and restrooms. It's about a ten minute drive from Table Rock. The advantages are that you can drive right to the spot and actually hawkwatch from your car if you wish. In addition to hawkwatching, this part of Garrett County can also be very productive for songbirds, shorebirds and waterfowl. Any one wanting information on the site can phone Gary Felton at 304-454-9251.

Conservation Connection

(continued from page 5, column 2)

interests blaming these birds for fisheries declines. This is not supported by any credible science. Three scientists conducted a thorough literature review and surveyed state fishery officials on the Double-crested Cormorant and fish populations. In their paper entitled Double-crested Cormorant Impacts on Sport fish: Literature Review, Agency Survey, and Strategies, 1999, John L. Trapp, Stephen J. Lewis, and Diane Pence note that 8 of 14 states responding to their survey indicated that **a widespread cormorant control program was not justified because there is no evidence that it would increase the supply of fish available to sport anglers**....

Responding to Congressional and fishermen pressure, this spring the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) initiated development of a national management plan for Double-crested Cormorants through the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.... One of the management options being considered in the EIS is a hunting season on Double-crested Cormorants. The EIS process will allow the FWS to determine the biological feasibility of a hunting season and whether, where, and with what bag limits such a season should occur. The EIS is to be completed this fall....

We believe that HR 3118 is contrary to sound wildlife management, is not supported by sound science, and should not pass. The Subcommittee should await the completion of the ongoing EIS that has hunting as one of the options for consideration. We urge your no vote.

Sincerely,
Gerald W. Winegrad
Vice President for Policy
American Bird Conservancy"

Text and Status of Bills Available Online

The fate of both CARA and H.R. 3118 was up in the air as of the deadline for this printing. For the text and status of any bill or act, introduced in the past or the current 106th legislative session, log on to the Library of Congress' Thomas web site at http://thomas.loc.gov and search for the bill by name or number.

ABC Supports Proposal to Establish Horseshoe Crab Sanctuary and Shut Down VA's Horseshoe Crab Fishery

by Maureen F. Harvey

The American Bird Conservancy's Vice President for Policy, Gerald W. Winegrad, wrote to the Secretary of the Department of Commerce requesting action to establish a horseshoe crab sanctuary and to close the Commonwealth of Virginia's horseshoe crab fishery. ABC member organizations, including the MOS, signed on to lend their support.

Background — Each May, many MOS birders flock to Port Mahon Road in Leipzig, DE to view the frenzy of migrating shorebirds feeding on horseshoe crab eggs. Shorebirds depend on this Delaware Bay delicacy to sustain them for the last leg of their amazing and arduous migration from wintering grounds in the Caribbean and Central and South America to breeding areas as far north as the Arctic tundra. Ornithologists and birders have recorded a steady decline in shorebird numbers along the migration route throughout the 1990's. Seeking answers, biologists initiated horseshoe crab egg counts and results have indicated a serious decline in the horseshoe crab breeding population. The decline is attributed to over-harvesting of horseshoe crabs, primarily for conch bait.

The Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission (ASMFC) established a Fishery Management Plan for Horseshoe Crabs that sets harvest limits for each state on the landing of horseshoe crabs to abate their population decline and permit recovery. New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland declared moratoria on commercial harvesting of horseshoe crabs. Initially, harvesters simply shifted operations to federal waters and rerouted their catches to ports in Pennsylvania and Virginia. Eventually, Pennsylvania agreed to halt the landing of horseshoe crabs in their state. The Commonwealth of Virginia has refused to comply with the ASMFC's management plan and has permitted all harvesters to land horseshoe crab catches in Virginia ports, thus defeating the conservation efforts of the other four states.

The Proposal — The ABC letter urged the Secretary to act on the recommendations of the ASMFC to "impose sanctions on Virginia by closing the landing and harvesting of horseshoe crabs in that state" and "establish an offshore horseshoe crab sanctuary where no harvest would be allowed. This sanctuary would be the area within a 30-mile radius of the Delaware Bay....Currently there are no regulations in effect for the take of horseshoe crabs in federal waters - they can be taken every day of the year, at any size, in any quantity." The Department of Commerce was further urged to combine all horseshoe crab related issues into one comprehensive regulation. The MOS was happy to sign the letter in support of the proposal.

UM Withdraws Plans to Fill In Wetland

by Gail Mackiernan

I wrote a letter as Montgomery County MOS Conservation Chair to both the University of Maryland System Chair of the Board of Regents and the President, Dr. Mote, regarding the University's plan to fill and destroy considerable riparian woodland/wetland habitat along Paint Branch for parking lots and playing fields. I worked at UM (at Sea Grant) for 12 years and had birded that area, which supports a number of breeding neotropical migrants including Baltimore Oriole, Parula, Yellowthroat, White-eyed Vireo and Acadian Flycatcher. My letter stressed the environmental importance of this area and the irony that UM research had led the way in understanding the ecological role of such wetlands. I received a very long letter back from Dr. Mote saying that they were reconsidering their plans and that my points were well-taken. I have since learned that the plans have been shelved, and the area will be left untouched! Another small victory in which I feel I played a small role.

Meet the New MOS Officers
by Themselves

Karen Morley, President — After many years of rural and suburban life in Thailand, British Columbia, California, Connecticut, and Colorado, when my two daughters "fledged," I decided to try city life and moved to Baltimore. I live in a turn of the century city rowhouse, which sucks up great amounts of time and money, but I love it. I am an attorney with the US EPA in Washington DC, commuting daily by carpool. I get up very early in the morning to beat the traffic, which explains why I may be a bit testy if you call me in the evenings after 9 p.m. Aside from birding, my passions are, in about equal order: music - symphonies, chamber music, and opera; food - I haven't met many cuisines that I don't like (except maybe ones featuring bugs); and the canyonlands and deserts of the southwest - exploring by foot and raft. I like reading biographies, mysteries and science fiction. I'm looking forward to an exciting year in MOS...we have lots of great plans for the future. I also hope to get to know all of you better and plan to visit all the MOS chapters during the next year.

Paul Zucker, Vice-President — In junior high school I had a friend who was interested in birds. One day while walking through a park on the way home from school, he pointed out a Brown Thrasher to me. I was amazed that such a lovely bird existed without my being aware of it. Immediately, I was overwhelmed by curiosity as to what other birds were there in my environment waiting to be discovered. Soon I was studying the field guide and taking every opportunity to search for birds. Since I grew up in New York City, these efforts tended to focus on Central Park, the greatest migrant trap I have ever seen. (If you were a migrating bird and found yourself over New York City at dawn, wouldn't you head for that big green spot in the middle of all that concrete?) During the summers I was fortunate enough to be at summer camp in the Berkshires, where I could hike and camp and enjoy nature. One summer, however, our whole family traveled out West. Not only was the scenery exciting but so were all the new birds, especially my first Bald Eagle seen during the float trip down the Snake River.

Without a car and very busy with studies, I did not get to do a lot of birding during my college years in Chicago. When I arrived in California for graduate school, I was mobile and was eager to explore. As luck would have it, my upstairs neighbor (a fellow Physics graduate student at Stanford) was an enthusiastic birder. Among the places we went was Mount Pinos near Los Angeles where we saw at least five different Condors at close range! California is extraordinary not only for the rich birdlife, but also for the varied terrain (lots of different habitats) and for a good road system to get you around. Very near to my apartment was the Palo Alto baylands nature preserve (salt marsh along San Francisco bay), a place I visited regularly and still visit when I am out there. The shorebird concentrations there are sometimes overwhelming.

After several years of postdoctoral physics research in Oregon and Minnesota (exceeding my lifetime quota for cold weather), I came to Maryland to work at the Johns Hopkins Applied Physics Laboratory in Howard county. Right after my arrival in 1975 I joined the Howard chapter of MOS, and then joined the Montgomery chapter as well the next year when I moved to that county. Since the mid 1980's I have been a Howard director on the MOS board, and a couple years ago I became chair of the Budget committee. My involvement with MOS also encompasses compiling the Howard May Count for over twenty years and covering two blocks for our breeding bird atlas. Some of my favorite local birding areas are the C and O canal, Black Hill park, and the Patuxent valley (where I do the seasonal counts and did the atlas work).

Besides birding (there is life besides birding), I play the bass fiddle in the Montgomery community orchestra and love to take pictures (especially on trips). I am working on the difficult problem of getting good pictures of birds. I particularly enjoy hiking and swimming. Having lived six years out West, I am "part westerner" and try to return there yearly to visit and bird. (Tomorrow, my wife Sherry and I are leaving for Glacier National Park and Banff.) I have not done a great deal of international birding, but trips to Hungary, France, and Israel have shown me the excitement of learning about new avifauna.

Sherry is actively interested in birds as well and often accompanies me on field trips and bird counts. Of our three sons, none is a birder. The eldest (Phil) is a herpetologist who is now in veterinary school. He shares an acute interest in nature and looks for snakes when he accompanies Sherry and me on field outings. David works with computer databases, and Andrew is now studying to be a chef.

I feel that Maryland is a great place to live and bird. In my role as vice-president, I look forward to traveling around the state, gaining an increased familiarity with the club's activities and members.

Janet Shields, Secretary — Having been a real estate agent for ten years, I felt it was time for a change. I discovered birding and wanted weekends and evenings free, something that was often not possible. Therefore, about 2 years ago I started work as an assistant for another real estate agent. After joining the Washington County Chapter of MOS five years ago, it took a field trip to Bombay Hook in 1997 to convince me I wanted to spend more time birding. I've tried to be fairly active ever since with both the Washington County and Frederick County MOS Chapters.

At home I have outdoor birdfeeders and indoor bird; eight indoor birds to be exact! All but one of them were given to me by people who no longer wanted to care for them. I'm not quite sure how there came to be eight; I only started by taking one Cockatiel. Currently there are 2 Parakeets, 3 Cockatiels, 1 Ring Necked Parakeet, 1 Peach Faced Lovebird, and Sam my Yellow Napped Amazon. And NO I don't plan to take in any more birds. In September I'm off birding in Alaska leaving my understanding non-birding husband at home to take care of the indoor birds, the outdoor feeders and the dog!

Shiras Guion, Treasurer — For those of you that don't already know me, my name is pronounced as "shy-rus guy-un." I am a member of the Howard County chapter and have been birding for at least 15 years. For the past seven years, I have been the Howard county treasurer. Birding has taken me to more than a dozen countries on various birding trips, including all continents except Antarctica, as well as trips in the USA. There is a long list of places I still want to visit or re-visit.

Five years ago when I retired from writing computer software, I was concerned that I might not have enough to keep me busy. I shouldn't have worried as I am now busier than ever. Besides birding, I am involved in quilting and quilt guilds and trying to get my yard and gardens tended, as well as spending time on various computer activities.

I live in Laurel with my husband Bill who handles the names and addresses database for MOS.

Larry Fry , Executive Secretary — Since I am a retired secondary education business education teacher, the position of Executive Secretary fits like a tight glove. Over the years I became very accustomed to moving, filing, storing, unstoring, sorting, and reclaiming volumes of data and files, not to mention disciplining recalcitrant subjects. So it all seems as though it is old, well-mastered business. The job kind of fills in some loose hours when I am not chasing the lawnmower or

(continued on page 12, column 1)

New MOS Officers

(continued from previous page)

digging in the front landscaping project now going on to its 5th year (more or less).

There are always voice mails to answer such as, "Would you please come remove this bird nest from my porch?" The MOS voice mail number that I am tuned to is 800.823.0050. Certainly some people were somewhat miffed when I recently did not respond to voice mail because my wife, Jean, and I were in the Shetland Islands, Wales, and London for three weeks looking for and photographing birds, castles, abbeys, and pubs.

Or, Norm (and now I suppose Karen) would e-mail me at jlfry@netfox.net asking me to drop everything and proceed post-haste to the MOS storage locker in Columbia to dig out some arcane MOS document. (Just kidding Norm).

Anyway, I will probably do the job of responding to any and all member requests on voice mail or e-mail for another year or so. Then we really have to decide where we are really going to retire to besides 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132 in northern rural Harford County where we have lived for 26 years.

For those members who can't write or e-mail your various requests, our phone number is 410.452.8539.

Giving to the Environment Has Never Been Easier

by Carol Jelich

The Environmental Fund for Maryland (EFM) is about to kick off their best campaign season yet to raise money for Maryland's environmental community. EFM is a federation that represents 22 diverse environmental organizations from across the state — including Maryland Ornithological Society. EFM's mission is to raise awareness and funds for its member groups by gaining participation in public and private workplace giving campaigns so that donors can support Maryland's environment through payroll deduction. EFM is participating in nineteen workplace giving campaigns this year. Most of the campaigns are in the fall, including the Combined Federal Campaign, the State of Maryland, and Baltimore City campaigns. Last year employees pledged over $100,000 to EFM and its member organizations through workplace giving.

Donations to the Fund support environmental programs that protect and conserve the Chesapeake Bay, beaches and coastal bays, forests and mountains, wetlands and streams; work for clean air and water; and promote biological diversity through advocacy, citizen action, natural resource preservation, pollution prevention and the education of Maryland's youth and citizens.

MOS has been a member of EFM since 1994. Monies raised through workplace giving can be used to support any of our worthwhile programs, including our sanctuaries, education, and research. You can elect to give directly to MOS as well as to EFM in your workplace campaign.

Workplace giving is an easy and cost effective way to support the tireless work going on across the state to ensure a safer, cleaner environment and continuing habitat for migratory songbirds.

EFM Needs Your Help! If you work for a state or federal agency, Baltimore City, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince Georges or Anne Arundel County and are willing to hand out a few brochures to coworkers and hang an EFM poster on your office bulletin board, please contact Marie Kulick at the EFM office, 410-752-2644 or email her at marie@efm.org. Be sure to mention that you are an MOS member Thank you.

The 2001 MOS Conference Pin Design Contest Rules and Guidelines

The MOS Conference Committee announces the 2001 MOS Conference Pin Design Contest.

Rules

- The design shall include a bird and the phrases "MOS" and "2001."
- The bird featured must be appropriate for the 2001 conference site, Salisbury, Maryland.
- Submissions shall be rendered in full color.
- Submissions shall not be framed or matted.
- Write on the back of each entry the artist's name, phone number, and chapter affiliation; and identify the species.
- Do not put the artist's name anywhere on the front of the entry. (All references to the artist are covered before judging.)
- Artists may not use others' work, or copyrighted material.
- Artists may submit up to five designs for any one contest.
- Entrants must be members of MOS.

By entering the contest the artists agree that if their design wins it becomes the property of MOS, which has the right to use the design to promote the conference, and for other MOS promotional uses.

The deadline for entries is January 10, 2001.

Entries should be sent to: John Malcolm
10205 Kindly Court
Montgomery Village, MD 20886

Guidelines & Suggestions

- Designs should be in the "final version," with the bird clearly depicted. Don't send a rough sketch with the expectation that the pin company will finish the artwork for you.
- Simple, uncluttered, bold designs work best. Remember, the finished pin will be less than two inches; small details and complicated backgrounds don't reduce well.
- The manufacturer has a limited color palette; artists should consider birds with "basic" colors. (Note the color of the "olive" back of the yellowthroat on the 1991 pin.)
- Avoid shading or small patches of color. The pins are cloisonné, and each color change is bordered by a brass line. (The background in the original design for 1994 was shaded from dark green to light green; but the pin company could only produce one shade.)
- Submissions should be on sturdy, white, unlined paper or Bristol, in any medium, and the image should be at least five inches across (but not larger than 8 X 10 inches).
- The shape of the pin doesn't matter; the manufacturer can produce any shape.
- Artists need not depict the entire bird (note the 1988 entry).

The contest judges are an impartial jury of birders and artists. No entrant can be a judge. Judges consider suitability of the species, and the expected attractiveness of the resultant pin. The judges' decision is final. The winning artist may be asked to make minor changes to accommodate the manufacturing process. All entries will be returned to the artists, except for the winning design, which becomes the property of MOS. Pictures of past contest winners can be seen at the MOS State Web Site: http://www.mdbirds.org

Call John Malcolm if you have any questions. He's at (301) 977-5788.

55th Annual Conference Goes West

by Mike Callahan

They said "Go West you Birders", and so the 55th Annual MOS Conference did just that and headed for Hagerstown, the Gateway to Western Maryland for the first time. Hosted by the Washington and Frederick County Chapters at the Ramada Conference Center from May 19-21, 2000, the 258 members in attendance were treated to an action packed weekend. Not deterred by the interesting Spring weekend weather, many first time attendees along with regular Conference attendees enjoyed the weekend's new and old activities.

The new MOS Banner and tabletop display were seen for the first time when they were displayed in the registration area. Friday afternoon you could choose to attend one of the several field trips or the Warbler Identification Workshop instructed by naturalist and bird bander Connie Skipper. The thirty people who attended the workshop were able to put to test their newly learned ID skills while attending Saturday and Sunday trips. Educational displays also lined the hallway of the center and included the Environmental Trust for Maryland, Scholarship Committee, The Songbird Foundation, and the two hosting Chapters.

Friday evening's speaker was Chan Robbins, whose talk was titled " Birds and Birding into the new Millennium". Chan's talk gave a perspective of what could come of birds and birding in the future and how things have changed from the past. Members were even treated to some historical photographs of MOS activities of years gone by.

MOS President Norm Saunders presided over the Annual Meeting on the evening of Saturday May 20th, making it the shortest and most efficient Annual Business Meeting anyone can remember. Newly elected officers are: Karen Morley, President, Paul Zucker, Vice-President, Shiras Guion, Treasurer, and Kathy Neugebauer, Secretary.

Hagerstown is a new Conference location for MOS, and exciting field trips visited Washington and Frederick Counties, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania for a variety of birds. This was the first conference for new Statewide Conference Chairman Mike Callahan and Dave Weesner of the Washington County Chapter served as Local Coordinator. The local Conference Planning Committee was made up of Wilbur Hershberger, Dale Johnson, Linda Keller, John and Judy Lilga, Doug and Nancy Parker, Ann Mitchell, Janet Shields, and Betty Wolfe. Our thanks and gratitude go out to this dedicated group of people who helped plan and prepare for the MOS descent upon Hagerstown, and served on the frontlines and behind the scene all weekend long. Both Janet Shields and Judith Lilga received one of the canvas bags with the conference pin design hand-painted on the side as special thanks for their special efforts throughout the planning period for the conference and during the weekend itself. We could not have pulled off such an organized and fun weekend without them. Field trip leaders were a group of dedicated volunteers from across the state that were on the front lines during the conference. The leaders received a trip leader golf visor to identify them. Bob Ringler noted that the visors couldn't be counted as hats, especially for the less hirsute trip leaders.

Under the busy and energetic guidance of the new Silent Auction and Raffle organizer Janelle Dietrich, over $2,225 was raised. For those who did not attend the closing of the auction on Saturday evening, you missed hearing the teacher come out in Janelle when she stood on the top of a chair and yelled "put your pencils down now" and every one froze. We hope you did not miss out on the after-auction bargains, for it looked like the competition for a blue light sale at one of the "marts". Proceeds went to Scales & Tales for use in building raptor education display cages at the nature center in Greenbrier State Park. Scales & Tales brought an educational display of live raptors on Saturday afternoon. Their display was open to the public.

Conference T-shirts with Gladys Lambert's winning pin design were on sale. This was the first time for Gladys to attend a MOS Conference and we were happy she could receive the canvas bag with her hummingbird pin design on it in person. Karen Morley brought along MOS toys to sell that included baseball caps, Polo shirts, coffee mugs, magnets, stickers, and key chains. The caps were so popular that they sold out.

Thanks to Publicity Chair Fran Saunders, local newspaper and news reporters showed up and interviewed a few committee members and officers. Our weekend of MOS fun made the local TV news and in the newspapers and a photographer joined a trip lead by Bonnie Ott. She had some more unexpected excitement when the Conference Planning Committee awarded her with the newly created "First to Register" award. Bonnie was joined by Darius and Paula Ecker, who received the "first to register in 2000" prize.

The Wildlife Authority was this year's birding supply, book and gift store and Conference goers kept co-owner Kathy Franklin busy ringing up sales. Five local wildlife artists enjoyed displaying and selling their artwork and not being charged for the setup space.

We ended with the Tally Rally after lunch on Sunday that was co-hosted by Karen Morley and Dave Harvey who added a taste of birding humor to the tally. The trip list board that was constructed by Dave and displayed in the lobby was very useful and popular throughout the weekend. Birders who attended the rally and got a life bird or State bird were awarded with a MOS trinket magnet or key chain. Between Friday afternoon and Sunday conference attendees collectively found 161 different species of birds. Highlights included the Loggerhead Shrike found by Charlie Muise while leading the Sunday morning trip to Lilypons. Participants in the Saturday morning trip to Pete Wright's farm were treated to a roaring fire in the fireplace and a rendition of bluegrass favorites by Pete and his brother.

A fun birding weekend was had by all despite the cloudy and rainy weather that blanketed the area most of the weekend. If you missed the excitement of our Conference this year, you can look forward to next year's adventure on the Shore. Look for details in the Yellowthroat.

Conference lost and found — A colorful and beautiful bird wall hanging was left on a lunch table during the rally on Sunday. If this belongs to you, it had to temporarily migrate south and is now with Mike Callahan. If no one claims it then you will see it up for bid during next years Silent Auction. It can be retrieved by contacting Mike at 301-490-931, or RaptorsRule @juno.com

The World Series of Birding/2000

This year's World Series was, in the words of Pete Dunne, "One of the finest days birding I can ever remember." The weather was great, the birds abundant, and once again our team, the Maryland Yellowthroats, made up of Hal Wierenga, Lynn Davidson, Mark Hoffman, and Marshall Iliff, managed to do extremely well in Cape May County. They tallied 180 species, up two from last year, and ended in a tie for first place in Cape May County with Michael O'Brien's team (is it the water these Maryland boys drink as children???). MOS grossed over $2,800 in pledges and donations this year, bringing the Yellowthroats 3-year total of funds pledged to just short of $10,000. As you likely know, the money raised from the World Series efforts of our team goes to support MOS's Sanctuary, Scholarship, and Research programs. A big thanks is due to all our Year 2000 contributors:

Kent County Chapter
The Backyard Naturalist
Zoe Aler
Ron Anderson
Paula Becker
Mary-Jo Betts
Mike & Joy Bowen
Jeanne Bowman
Dave Brinker
Anne Brooks
Susan Buswell
Lori Byrne
Martha Chestem
Jane Coskren
Ruth & Don Culbertson
Lynn Davidson
John & Suzonne Davidson
Anneke Davis
John Denice
Mark Eanes
Dan Eberly
Leslie Fisher
Louise Flyger
Doug Forsell
Sam Freiberg
Jeffrey Friedhoffer
Jean & Larry Fry
Helene Gardel
Rebecca Gast
Shirley Geddes
Daphne Gemmill
Ralph & Jane Geuder
Donna Brown Gini Noblit
Joyce Gorsuch
Nelse Greenway
Phyllis Grimm
Dot Gustafson
Peter Hanan
Allan Haury
Buck & Alice Herring
Roderick Hibben
Barbara Holloman
Tim Larney
Candi & Rick Lee
Peter Lev
Dana Limpert
Leda Marshall
Katharine McCarthy
Michele Melia
Jeff & Elayne Metter
Barbara Mikulski
Janet Millenson
Karen Morley
Paul O'Brien
Patsy Perlman
Paul Pisano
Wafi Rains
Kyle Rambo
Sue Ricciardi
Bob Rineer
Chan Robbins
Barbara Ross
Terry & Roberta Ross
Sally Rowe
Billie Ruhl
Norm & Fran Saunders
Lydia Schindler
Doug Senn
Scott Smith
Jo & Bob Solem
Paul Speyser
Pat Tate
Evelyn Taylor
Glenn Therres
George Thomas
Van & Linda Vogel
Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Peter Webb
Amalia Widajanti
Harold Wierenga
Larry Zoller
Paul Zucker

MOS Maryland Yellowthroats World Series of Birding 2000 in Cape May County, NJ

by Lynn Davidson

You would think that piping plover would be the last species we needed to stake out. That's what we thought last year and look what happened. Of course it's easy to rationalize that the weather was responsible for us missing this species during the 1999 World Series.... the beach was completely underwater during a wind-driven high tide when we went looking for our last "in the bag" species in fading light. This year would be different. We timed our walk along the beach to the closest place where we could see the brooding plover in its cage-like predator exclosure. This year we would not be embarrassed again!

The World Series is not just a 24-hour event. It begins with nearly a week of scouting previous to the event. Finding woodpecker nest holes, hawk nests (if you're REALLY lucky), and the fastest routes between birding locations is all part of preparing for a successful big day. The more species and individuals of species that are "staked out," the greater the chances of finding one when it counts. All this ends on Friday afternoon as we try to get a few hours of sleep before the grueling event.

A 10:30pm alarm, quick shower, and bite to eat (was that breakfast or dinner?) starts us off with time to get to our first spot a few minutes before midnight. The news that Marshall forgot to put the group's sandwiches on ice for the last 2 hours leaves us feeling queasy. We just hope the evening was cool enough.... Last minute route changes were ongoing as the clock read 11:53 and we decided to leave the Meadows and head for the Cove Pond with hopes that the least bittern would be calling. The stroke of midnight finally arrived, and.....nothing but silence. The list soon begins with more routine species: mallard, marsh wren, mockingbird, and a Swainson's thrush calling overhead. A return to the Meadows allows us to add a few more vocal species. Some that we know are present simply refuse to call despite our efforts at enticement by imitating calls. (Tape playback is against the rules!) On our way out, we see the moonlit forms of another team.... "Mark, Paul... is that you?" The ANS team has been listening to our imitations from afar and had already ticked our sickly sora imitation. We felt it our duty to inform them they had to try harder.

After several more stops the list steadily grew to about 50 species. Near day break, we finally heard our least bittern at McNamara WMA at the northern end of Cape May County. At dawn we were already off to a good start with no real "misses." Almost anywhere would be a good place to be at dawn. We fly through several locations in the north and rack up a number of species in short order. The hairy woodpecker chicks in a nest that Mark Hoffman staked out the previous Tuesday seemed to have fledged and flown by Friday, but luck was with us. Getting cattle egret out of the way early was a real boon. A hooded warbler here, a summer tanager there, and we were finished with our half-dozen stops in Belleplain State Forest and on our way southward.

It would be so easy to make another dozen stops on our way south, but we ignored most on our way to the tip of the point and a morning seawatch. A close parasitic jaeger harassing terns which were feeding just off

(continued at top of next page)

MARYLAND FALL COUNT 2000

The annual Fall Seasonal Count sponsored by MOS will be held Saturday, September 16, 2000 in the Maryland-DC area. Several counties have been conducting this count for several years on the third Saturday of September. However, the desire is to expand involvement to additional areas of the state so that the count will provide more complete data about fall migration and complement the data collected about migration from the annual May Count. Counties that have not included the count in their programs are urged to plan to do so in future years.

Everyone is urged to join in; no matter your skill level. Identification is only part of being successful; you have to spot the bird first, so every pair of eyes helps. And, it is great fun!

The guidelines for this count are the same as those used for the May Count. Coordinators will assign volunteers to areas, honoring requests whenever possible. Party leaders are responsible for tracking party miles and times, names of participants, and documentation for unusual sightings. A checklist compilation form is included in this issue that includes the species one would expect to find in Maryland at this time. Those species on the list requiring further written documentation are noted with asterisks, and all write-ins require full details. **Deadline for submitting completed reports to your county coordinator is no later than October 2, 2000.**

The county coordinators who have been identified so far are listed below. Anyone interested in acting as coordinator for other counties are encouraged to volunteer. The list of coordinators will be updated on the MOS web site (http://www.MDBirds.org) as additional coordinators are identified. If you don't have web access or you are interested in counting in a county without a coordinator, you can contact the Fall Count Coordinator. A copy of the checklist will also be available on the web site. Individual parties or other groups (e.g. Hawk Watch sites) who count in areas without a coordinator are asked to submit their data along with details on what area was covered to the Fall Count Coordinator by October 2.

Count highlights, compilations, and lists of participants will appear in an article for **MD Birdlife**.

Plan to join the fun and have a great day birding!

Chuck Stirrat, Fall Count Coordinator
13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21042-1155
Home phone: 410-531-2417
E-mail: Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu

County Coordinators

Baltimore: Debbie Terry, 747 Bomont Rd., Timonium, MD 21093, 410-252-8771, gt5s@erols.com
Calvert: Arlene Ripley, 3513 Smithville Rd., Dunkirk, MD 20754, 301-855-2848, aripley@nestbox.com
Caroline: Debby Bennett, P.O. Box 404, Denton, MD 21629, 410-479-2978, dbennett@caro.lib.md.us
Carroll: Bob Ringler, 6272 Pinyon Pine Ct., Eldersburg, MD 21784, 410-549-6031, ringler@qis.net
Dorchester: Henry T. Armistead, 523 E. Durham St., Philadelphia, PA 19119, 215-248-4120, 74077.3176@compuserve.com
Frederick: Doug Parker, 9014 Mountainberry Circle, Frederick, MD 21702, 301-663-1909, parkernkda@aol.com
Howard: Mike McClure, 12237 Mt. Albert Rd., Ellicott City, MD 21042, 410-531-2780, Michael.McClure@jhuapl.edu
Worcester: Mark Hoffman, 7263 Norris Ave., Sykesville, MD 21784, 410-549-3598, MHoff36100@aol.com

County Compilers only: Send your compilations by October 16, 2000 to the Fall Count Coordinator at the address above or by e-mail (preferred method).

MD Fall Count Checklist **Date**: Sept. 16, 2000 **County:** _____ **Compiler:** _____

* Need some details ** Need full details *** All write-ins need full details Provide party data on back

Common Loon
Pied-billed Grebe
Horned Grebe**
Brown Pelican
Double-crested Cormorant
Great Cormorant**
American Bittern
Least Bittern
Great Blue Heron
Great Egret
Snowy Egret
Little Blue Heron
Tricolored Heron
Cattle Egret
Green Heron
Black-crowned Night-Heron
Yellow-crowned Night-Heron
White Ibis**
Glossy Ibis
Black Vulture
Turkey Vulture
Snow Goose
Canada Goose
Mute Swan
Wood Duck
Gadwall
American Wigeon
American Black Duck
Mallard
Blue-winged Teal
Northern Shoveler
Northern Pintail
Green-winged Teal
Canvasback*
Ring-necked Duck*
Greater Scaup*
Lesser Scaup*
unidentified scaup
Surf Scoter*
White-winged Scoter*
Black Scoter
Bufflehead**
Hooded Merganser
Common Merganser*
Red-breasted Merganser*
Ruddy Duck
Osprey
Bald Eagle [adult]
Bald Eagle [immature]
Bald Eagle [unknown age]
Northern Harrier
Sharp-shinned Hawk
Cooper's Hawk
unidentified Accipiter
Red-shouldered Hawk
Broad-winged Hawk
Red-tailed Hawk
unidentified Buteo
Golden Eagle*
American Kestrel
Merlin
Peregrine Falcon
Ring-necked Pheasant
Ruffed Grouse
Wild Turkey
Northern Bobwhite

Black Rail*
Clapper Rail
King Rail
Virginia Rail
Sora
Common Moorhen
American Coot
Sandhill Crane**
Black-bellied Plover
American Golden-Plover
Semipalmated Plover
Piping Plover
Killdeer
American Oystercatcher
American Avocet
Greater Yellowlegs
Lesser Yellowlegs
Solitary Sandpiper
Willet
Spotted Sandpiper
Upland Sandpiper
Whimbrel
Hudsonian Godwit*
Marbled Godwit*
Ruddy Turnstone
Red Knot
Sanderling
Semipalmated Sandpiper
Western Sandpiper
Least Sandpiper
White-rumped Sandpiper
Baird's Sandpiper
Pectoral Sandpiper
Dunlin
Stilt Sandpiper
Buff-breasted Sandpiper
Ruff*
Short-billed Dowitcher
Long-billed Dowitcher
Common Snipe
American Woodcock
Wilson's Phalarope
Red-necked Phalarope*
Red Phalarope*
Pomarine Jaeger*
Parasitic Jaeger*
Laughing Gull
Franklin's Gull*
Bonaparte's Gull
Ring-billed Gull
Herring Gull
Lesser Black-backed Gull
Great Black-backed Gull
unidentified gull
Gull-billed Tern*
Caspian Tern
Royal Tern
Sandwich Tern**
Common Tern
Forster's Tern
Least Tern
Black Tern
Black Skimmer
Rock Dove
Mourning Dove
Black-billed Cuckoo

Yellow-billed Cuckoo
Barn Owl
Eastern Screech-Owl
Great Horned Owl
Barred Owl
Northern Saw-whet Owl*
Common Nighthawk
Chuck-Will's-Widow*
Whip-Poor-Will
Chimney Swift
Ruby-throated Hummingbird
Belted Kingfisher
Red-headed Woodpecker
Red-bellied Woodpecker
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker
Downy Woodpecker
Hairy Woodpecker
Northern Flicker
Pileated Woodpecker
Olive-sided Flycatcher
Eastern Wood-Pewee
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher
Acadian Flycatcher
Alder Flycatcher*
Willow Flycatcher*
Least Flycatcher
unidentified Empidonax
Eastern Phoebe
Great Crested Flycatcher
Western Kingbird*
Eastern Kingbird
Loggerhead Shrike*
White-eyed Vireo
Blue-headed Vireo
Yellow-throated Vireo
Warbling Vireo
Philadelphia Vireo
Red-eyed Vireo
Blue Jay
American Crow
Fish Crow
unidentified crow
Common Raven
Horned Lark
Purple Martin
Tree Swallow
N. Rough-winged Swallow
Bank Swallow
Cliff Swallow
Barn Swallow
Carolina Chickadee
Black-capped Chickadee
Tufted Titmouse
Red-breasted Nuthatch
White-breasted Nuthatch
Brown-headed Nuthatch
Brown Creeper
Carolina Wren
House Wren
Winter Wren
Sedge Wren*
Marsh Wren
Golden-crowned Kinglet
Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher
Eastern Bluebird

Veery
Gray-cheeked Thrush
Bicknell's Thrush**
Swainson's Thrush
Hermit Thrush
Wood Thrush
American Robin
Gray Catbird
Northern Mockingbird
Brown Thrasher
European Starling
American Pipit
Cedar Waxwing
Blue-winged Warbler
Golden-winged Warbler
Tennessee Warbler
Orange-crowned Warbler*
Nashville Warbler
Northern Parula
Yellow Warbler
Chestnut-sided Warbler
Magnolia Warbler
Cape May Warbler
Blk.-thrtd. Blue Warbler
Yel.-rump'd (Myrtle) Warbler
Blk.-thrtd. Green Warbler
Blackburnian Warbler
Yellow-throated Warbler
Pine Warbler
Prairie Warbler
Palm Warbler [yellowish]
Palm Warbler [western]
Palm Warbler [unknown race]
Bay-breasted Warbler
Blackpoll Warbler
Cerulean Warbler*
Black-&-white Warbler
American Redstart
Prothonotary Warbler
Worm-eating Warbler
Ovenbird
Northern Waterthrush
Louisiana Waterthrush*
Kentucky Warbler*
Connecticut Warbler
Mourning Warbler
Common Yellowthroat
Hooded Warbler
Wilson's Warbler
Canada Warbler
Yellow-breasted Chat
unidentified warbler
Summer Tanager
Scarlet Tanager
Eastern Towhee
Chipping Sparrow
Clay-colored Sparrow*
Field Sparrow
Vesper Sparrow
Lark Sparrow*
Savannah Sparrow
Grasshopper Sparrow
Saltmarsh Sh'p-tailed Sparrow
Seaside Sparrow
Song Sparrow
Lincoln's Sparrow

Swamp Sparrow
White-throated Sparrow
White-crowned Sparrow
unidentified sparrow
Dark-eyed Junco
Northern Cardinal
Rose-breasted Grosbeak
Blue Grosbeak
Indigo Bunting
Dickcissel*
Bobolink
Red-winged Blackbird
Eastern Meadowlark
Yellow-headed Blackbird**
Rusty Blackbird**
Boat-tailed Grackle
Common Grackle
Brown-headed Cowbird
unidentified blackbird
Orchard Oriole
Baltimore Oriole
Purple Finch
House Finch
Pine Siskin**
American Goldfinch
Evening Grosbeak**
House Sparrow

Write-ins* (require full details):

Total Species
Total Individuals

* Need some details
** Need full details
*** All write-ins need full details

Guidelines for preparing documentation of rare bird sightings have appeared in prior Yellowthroat issues, are available on the MOS Website and are summarized on the back of this form. If you see a species requiring written details provide as much information as you are able, on as many separate sheets as necessary.

PARTY STATISTICS
County/Location:

Time Start:
Time Stop:

OWLING
Hours Owling:
Miles Owling:
Parties Owling:
Observers Owling:

REGULAR
Hours Foot:
Hours Car:
Hours Boat:
Hours other: ( )
Miles Foot:
Miles Car:
Miles Boat:
Miles Other:
Parties Regular:
Observers Regular:

STATIONARY (e.g. hawk watch)
Hours Stationary:

FEEDER WATCHING (actual time counting only at feeders):
Hours Feeder Watching:

WEATHER

	Temp	Wind[1]	%Clouds	Precip[2]
Pre-dawn				
Dawn				
AM				
Noon				
PM				
Dusk				
Post-dusk				

[1] Speed and wind direction, i.e. SE5-10
[2] Heavy (hard downpour); Moderate (steady rainfall); Light (steady drizzle); Misty; Foggy; Intermittent Drizzle

COMPILER/PARTY LEADER
Compiled by:
Address:

Phone:
E-mail:

Alphabetical List of Participants
(continue on separate sheet if necessary):

Compilers: Send compilations by October 15, 2000 to Chuck Stirrat, Fall Count Coordinator, 13318 Hunt Ridge, Ellicott City, MD 21045-1155. Email reports (preferred) should be sent to: Charles.Stirrat@jhuapl.edu

FALL COUNT 2000
Sightings Notes

Sightings Details Guidelines:

1. Description of Size, Shape and Plumage
   a. Size relative to other birds.
   b. Head: shape, patterns, colors.
   c. Bill: length, shape, color.
   d. Eye: color, ring?
   e. Plumage details: nape, back, rump, wings(upper and under), coverts, tail, throat, chin, breast, belly. Patterned or plain? Colors?
   f. Legs and feet: length, colors, shape.
   g. Condition: signs of molt or wear. Marked, tagged or banded?
2. Number of birds.
3. Sex and age, by plumage or behavior.
4. Behavior.
   a. Posture, vocalizations, feeding method, preening or sleeping, flight pattern or style, interaction with other birds.
5. Other Birds Present?
6. Location.
   a. Place name, county and state, habitat.
7. Conditions.
   a. cloud cover?, wind speed and direction, temperature, precipitation?, water conditions, duration of sighting, time of day, distance of bird form observer, sun location relative to bird and observer.
8. Observer Details.
   a. Optics details, field guides, etc., consulted, experience with this species, years birding, other observers present.

It's difficult to note everything, but, the more the better. Besides, you do want that record accepted, don't you?

County Compilers only: Send your compilations by October 16, 2000 to the Fall Count Coordinator at the address above or by e-mail (preferred method).

the jetties was one of the highlights of the day. The snow goose at Lily Lake is the perennial "gimme", and a white-throated sparrow calling from the shrubbery around Cape May Bird Observatory, which conveniently doubled as a bathroom pitstop, rounded out our Point stake-outs.

No Cape May County big day would be complete without at least quick peaks at some of the most popular (with good reason) birding spots: Hidden Valley, Higbee's Beach, and the Beanery. Here's an important WSB birding tip...when you bird the Beanery, always keep at least one eye on the sky. Marshall put the rest of us to shame as he single-handedly pulled a northern harrier, sharp-shinned hawk, bald eagle, and Mississippi kite out of a mixed vulture/broad-wing kettle that was lingering overhead.

Heading northward, we make several stops to try and shake a few more migrants out of the bushes. Although a few migrants were heard overhead in the wee hours, it seemed that most of them kept going, rather than dropping down in Cape May County. A Tennessee here, a Chestnut-sided there. It becomes very time consuming to eke these out one at a time. Determining when to switch from a focus on landbirds to a waterbird focus can be one of the most critical decisions during the day.

Sooner or later, ducks, waterbirds, and shorebirds always become the central focus of the route. We managed to round up all the waders without a time-consuming stop at the heron rookery. Also falling in line were all the "usual" shorebirds; long-billed dowitcher at the Wetlands Institute was a real bonus, again thanks to the sharp eyes and scouting talents of Marshall. Ducks were another story. Every year much scouting time goes into finding the last lingering.... anything. Most waterfowl have headed northward by mid-May leaving behind the weak, injured, or "johnny-come-latelies." The weak or injured usually stay put long enough for us to relocate them when it counts; the rest are just wild cards. Unfortunately, we were dealt a meager duck "hand" this year, with northern shoveler, red-breasted merganser, and black and surf scoter considered highlights. Six other "never miss" species rounded out the list.

This year we ran our route like clockwork and even had spare time for practical jokes. The only thing I'll say about the joke...if you're going to leave your strategic route plan in plain sight on the seat of your car, don't forget to roll up your windows and lock your doors when Marshall is near. The joke was enhanced; however, when George Armistead and fellow Zughenrhue teammates returned to find their route plan under their windshield wiper and innocently assumed it had been found lying on the ground by a good samaritan. Good jokes can be wasted on the naive.

Late afternoon was spent strategically deciding which missed species to try to pick up. We all agreed that migrant songbirds needed the most work. Hitting several of the best spots, we only added a couple of crucial birds. With dusk rapidly approaching, we returned to the Meadows to find most of our competitors also there looking for the same staked out American coot, which decided to remain quiet and hidden. Forging ahead to the beach, we discovered a brand new piping plover exclosure erected right next to the overdune walkway. Guess we needn't have staked out this bird after all.

Also approaching rapidly was a rip-roaring thunderstorm. Fumbling for a new strategy to accommodate high winds, downpours, and the threat of lightning strikes, we decided to head back northward for the secretive and oft-missed black rail. We arrived at Jake's Landing to find several other teams groping for the same last minute reprieve. Only some of us, however, were stupid enough to stand underneath the new observation tower, the tallest object anywhere within the extensive and very flat salt-marsh.

As time ran out, we abandoned our black rail quest and set our sights for the finish line at the Cape May Lighthouse. The final act in the lighthouse parking lot was a check and recheck of the list; once it's turned in it becomes final. We tallied 180 species, which was two more than last year, and tied for the most species in a single New Jersey county. A fun, exciting, exhausting day was had by all, and over $2,500 was raised for bird research and education at the same time.

MOS Scholarship Program for 2001

by Jean Fry

The Maryland Ornithological Society is now accepting applications from Maryland teachers and youth leaders for ten scholarships to attend summer ornithology and ecology workshops which the National Audubon Society holds at its camps in Maine, Connecticut, and Wyoming. Each grant covers the cost of tuition, room, and board for an intensive six-day course of field study and instruction in ornithology, ecology, conservation, and natural history. The value of each scholarship is from $600 to $900.

MOS requires that its scholarship recipients work with young people. This includes teachers, camp counselors, park rangers, students, and others who intend to make nature education a part of their careers. Applicants need not be members of MOS, but they must be endorsed by a chapter or a member of MOS, and all must be eighteen or older.

Each candidate must submit the following:

1. A written statement in the form of a letter showing how the Audubon experience will be used to develop in young people an appreciation of our wild heritage and a sense of responsibility for the care and quality of our natural resources and environment.
2. Two letters of recommendation from individuals who know of the candidate's interest and activities. One must be from an MOS member or chapter. It is helpful if the letters cite specific programs or accomplishments of the candidate in addition to personal qualities.
3. A current resume.

The following persons are scholarship representatives in their respective chapters:

Allegany—Dr. Gwenda Brewer
Anne Arundel—Al Haury
Baltimore—Bea Nicholls
Cecil—Richard Donham
Howard—Eileen Clegg
Jug Bay—Dale Johnson
Kent—Pat Wilson
Montgomery—Doris Brody
Talbot—Liz Lawlor
Tri-County—Patsy Decker.

The role of the scholarship representative is to recruit potential qualified candidates and to assist candidates in the application process. Individuals from the following chapters are needed to function as scholarship representatives for their part of the state: Caroline, Carroll, Frederick, Harford, Patuxent, and Washington.

Applications for the 2001 workshops are due by January 31, 2001 to Jean Fry, Chairperson of the MOS Scholarship Committee, 1202 Ridge Road, Pylesville, MD 21132, 410-452-8539, e-mail: jlfry@netfox.net. All MOS chapters are urged to see that this information is disseminated as widely as possible to all educators and youth leaders in their counties and to include it in their newsletters. A broad base of applicants is needed to ensure statewide participation and fairness in the selection process. More specific information will be sent to chapter presidents and representatives in early September.

Maryland Ornithological Society
Board of Directors Meeting
11 December 1999

MEETING LOCATION: Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Frederick
MEETING START: 10:00 a.m.
MEETING ADJOURNED: 12:12 p.m.

In Attendance:

Officers & Committees:

Norm Saunders, President
Karen Morley, Vice-President
Kathy Neugebauer, Secretary
Jeff Metter, Treasurer
Larry Fry, Executive Secretary
Jane Coskren, Atlas Committee Chair
Paul Zucker, Budget Committee Chair
Mark Johnson, Cavity Nesting Committee Chair
Mike Callahan, Conference Committee Chair
Paula Ecker, Liz Lawlor, Education Committee
Sally Ann Waldschmidt, Gifts Committee Chair
Joy Wheeler, Library Committee Chair
Marcia Watson-Whitmyre, Long-Range Planning Committee Chair
Dave Harvey, Nominations Committee Chair
Fran Saunders, Publicity Committee Chair
Dotty Mumford, Sanctuary Committee Chair
Jean Fry, Scholarship Committee Chair
Carol Jelich, Environmental Fund Liaison
Chuck Stirrat, Fall Count Subcommittee

Chapters:

Allegany – no representatives
Anne Arundel – Tricia Dardinski, Al Haury, Lawrence Zoller
Baltimore – Terry Ross, Peter Webb, Joy Wheeler
Caroline – no representatives
Carroll – Dave Harvey
Cecil – Marcia Watson-Whitmyre
Frederick – Wilbur Hershberger
Harford – Thomas Congersky, Joe Vangrin
Howard – Mary-Jo Betts, Elayne Metter, Darius Ecker, Martha Waugh
Jug Bay – Dale Johnson
Kent – no representatives
Montgomery – Linda Friedland, Lydia Schindler, Rick Sussman, Sam Freiberg, Janet Millenson
Patuxent – no representatives
Talbot – Frank Lawlor, Bill Novak, Myra Novak
Tri-County – no representatives
Washington – Dave Weesner

1. **Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Norm Saunders, who thanked the Frederick Chapter for their hospitality.

2. **August Board Meeting Minutes** – The August minutes were reviewed and several typos and inaccuracies were noted. **A Motion was made to approve the Minutes as amended. This was SECONDED, and APPROVED by the Board.**

3. **Proposed Changes to Manual of Operations – Norm Saunders** The proposal noted the change in the May Count Committee to a new Seasonal Counts Committee, with subcommittees covering May Count, Fall Counts, and Mid-Winter Counts. **A Motion was made to accept the proposed changes, which was seconded and approved by the full Board.**

4. **Request for Special Grant in Support of MD Birding Guide – Marshall Iliff** Marshall is developing a Maryland Birding Guide and requested from MOS a grant of $5,000.00 to help him complete the project. The amount of the request is based on his estimate of driving costs throughout Maryland to carry out the detailed field work required to complete his research for the Guide.

   Marshall noted that the Guide would be oriented along regional lines, breaking Maryland into the five physiographic regions recognized by the MD/DC Records Committee. He did not have a detailed proposal for the Board outlining his timing or his estimated expenses but Marshall indicated he would provide such a proposal to the Board as soon as possible. Norm Saunders noted that the benefit of a publication like this would be to attract people to MOS and to the sport of birding in the State of Maryland.

   Some discussion ensued over the fact that Marshall intended to find a publishing house for the book. Some felt that since Marshall hoped to make money from his publication, the money he requested from MOS should be considered an interest-free loan, which would be repaid out of his profits from the book when it was published. While Marshall was not opposed to this stipulation, others on the Board felt that the book-keeping necessary to keep track of the repayments, if required, wouldn't be worth the amount in question. The question was then put to the Board—should such an amount, if approved, be considered a grant to Marshall or a loan to Marshall? The Board voted 22 for a grant and 16 for loan. A second question was put to the Board regarding the upper limit to such a grant. Marshall had requested $5,000, so the Board decided to make that the cap on any possible grant to him for this particular project. **A final motion was made that it was the sense of the Board that the Executive Committee should rule on the grant, pending a review of a formal submission by Marshall to the Gifts Committee. This motion was seconded and approved by the Board**

5. **Call for Budget Submissions – Paul Zucker** The budget cycle for next year is commencing. Paul asked that each committee send in their budget requests by February 1st. Most of the smaller committees have expense budgets in the $25.00 range for the year. If this needs to be adjusted, it should be submitted for the budget approval process. Larger requests for expenses or for program-related spending should also be submitted in detail. Next year's budget (1 May 2000 to 30 April 2001) will be submitted to the Board at the March meeting for their discussion and approval.

6. **Publicity Committee Update – Fran Saunders A MOTION was made to approve the purchase of a banner for $245.00. Motion was SECONDED and APPROVED by the Board.** Fran noted that the display board, which had been approved for purchase at the June 1999 Board Meeting, had indeed been purchased and was on display for the Board to look at. Fran further noted that she, Karen Morley, and Don Culbertson, of

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the Baltimore Chapter, were working on the design and layout of the board and hoped to have work completed on it and on an accompanying brochure in time for the Annual Conference in May. The cost of the display board was $264 and the balance of the $500 allocated by the Board for this project will be used to do the graphics and design work.

7. **Annual Meeting Update – Mike Callahan** Mike noted that Frederick & Washington Counties will be the hosts this year for the Annual Meeting, with Dave Weesner as the local coordinator. The Planning Committee has met a number of times and is hard at work finalizing all the specifics for the meeting. The Hotel for the Conference will be the Ramada Conference Center in Hagerstown, cost will be $69.00/day for room, with buffet meals (breakfast, lunch and dinner) offered. Chan Robbins will be the Keynote Speaker at the Friday evening dinner, the topic of his talk being **"Birding in the New Millennium."** A number of volunteers are needed to help out with the Conference, including those needed to assist with the silent auction, and "art sitters" (contact Sybil Williams and Dale Johnson).

   Registration forms for the Conference will be available in the January/February issue of the ***Yellowthroat.*** If you have special dietary needs, you need to note these on your registration form. In addition, all-day field trips will have box lunches provided and special food requests are also available 72 hours in advance. A list of field trips will be made available ahead of time to registrants. Dave Weesner will be in charge of field trips and needs assistance in reviewing areas for potential field trips as well as volunteer leaders for the trips. Please contact Mike or the appropriate individual if you are interested in volunteering for any of these activities.

8. **Scholarship Committee Update – Jean Fry** Requests for scholarship applications are down this year. If you are aware of any individuals who might be interested, please see Jean. In order to apply for a scholarship, the individual must submit an application of intent outlining their accomplishments, along with a current resume and two letters of recommendation one of which must be from either a MOS Chapter or member. Last year there were 20 applicants, with 10 scholarships awarded. Jean noted that MOS will be able to award another 10 scholarships this year if there are enough applicants. Deadline for submission is January 31st. Please encourage unsuccessful applicants from past years to resubmit. Jean's committee of seven members will rank the applicants and she will report to the Board on the winners at the March Board Meeting. All scholarship winners attend various Ecology and Ornithology Camps run by the National Audubon Society.

9. **Sanctuary Report – Dotty Mumford** The Irish Grove workday was held in mid-October 1999. Due to the lack of participants (thirteen people), the workday will be moved back to the last Saturday in October. The tide gate was not installed and Dick Robertson will be getting an estimate on the cost of having it taken care of by a professional contractor. The tide gate is used to limit saltwater incursion into the marsh but allows for the release of excess rainwater from the marsh. This minimizes further marsh intrusion into the property. All of the necessary parts have been purchased to complete the tide gate; what is left is the physical labor needed to dig out the area and assemble the gate. As soon as Dotty receives the installation estimate, she will contact Norm Saunders so that the Executive Committee can give a go-ahead to get the work done.

   Regarding the Sanctuary Guide, Dotty noted that the text is done, but she is waiting for the detailed trail maps of Carey Run and Irish Grove, maps which the Partners In Flight group has promised MOS. Dotty further noted that the PIF Team had discovered a potential boundary-line problem at Carey Run. As soon as she gets a copy of the Deed from Secretary Neugebauer, Dotty will let the Board know if we need to have the property surveyed to determine the correct property lines.

   Norm Saunders asked if the results of the inspections of the buildings at Carey Run and at Irish Grove had been submitted, since he had seen no reports to date from Mike Knott. According to Dotty, the inspections have been completed, but not written up as yet. She will call Mike Knott for follow-up. Norm Saunders noted that the alternatives are to wait for Mike Knott to complete the reports or to find an outside inspection company to do the work. **A MOTION was made that a letter from the President be drafted to Mike Knott requesting this information by February 1st. Motion was SECONDED and APPROVED by the Board.**

10. **Cavity Nesting Committee Progress Report – Mark Johnson** Mark made a presentation on the Nest Record Program to-date.

    As background, Mark noted that Chan Robbins has over 20,000 nest record cards in storage at Patuxent. Mark has two objectives for the data: 1) get it on the computer and make it available to researchers on a web-based database, and 2) encourage future participation in the program. Both phases of the work would require significant inputs of volunteer time and money, primarily for copying costs so that volunteers keying in the older nest record cards could work away from Patuxent without removing the cards from the F&WS property.

    Maryland Partners in Flight have also taken an interest in the project, and are willing to help support Mark's efforts. Much of the information would be useful in the next Atlas project. The USGS is also interested in the project. The question remains whether MOS is willing and able to take on this project alone, or whether it should be a concerted effort with other groups.

    So far Mark has set up an Access database to mimic the paper nest record card. Mark gave examples of the current database layout and of some of the data already entered. There was some concern expressed by the Board on how to initially set up and develop the database fields, queries, and error-checking. A well-defined database design is critical for the success of such a project, and Janet Millenson offered to work with Mark's Committee on this phase of the project.

    Many on the Board also felt that in our zeal to continue amassing nest records, we do so in such a way as to minimize our impacts on nesting birds.

    Mark wants to change the name of the committee to the Nest Records Committee and develop along the lines noted above. Paul Zucker summarized Mark's discussion with the following points: 1) This is a regular committee within MOS; the proposal is to change the name of the committee and it's basic functions; 2) a budget for Committee activities needs to be proposed for the coming year; and 3) volunteers need to be

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sought to become involved in an activity that may or may not be a MOS activity (database design and data entry). Paul felt that the Board needs to review and sort out these issues at hand, and determine how much participation MOS will have in these proposed changes. Norm Saunders noted that Mark's ideas are more developmental at this point. He further noted that the Cavity Nesting Committee had been defunct for a long time and Mark agreed to take it on and evaluate what was done in the past and what we should do in the future. ***Norm Saunders proposed that Mark come up with a name and description of what this committee will do and that a vote would be taken on these changes at the next Board Meeting so that alterations can be made to the Manual of Operations if necessary.***

11. **Environmental Fund for Maryland Update & Reminders – Carol Jelich** Campaign Progress Report of 1997 – Total monies collected for EFM workplace campaigns was $106,836.00. For 1996 this amount was $120,000.00. The totals so far through June of 1998 was $20,342.00. More will be coming in through pledges, as all the numbers for 1998 are not in. MOS proceeds for 1997 were $3,693.00. For 1998 – through June 30th this number was $442.00. Because Carol has not received a list of names of people who contributed in the 1998 campaign, no "thank you" letters for 1998 have been sent out as yet.

    Activities – EFM Board has just voted in a new member - National Aquarium. The National Aquarium had to pay an admission fee to EFM and they have a large list of members that we can tap into. According to Norm, MOS paid a $2000.00 fee membership fee to join EFM as well.

    Campaign Kick-off events have been planned to promote organizations involved with EFM. EFM only had 12 of these events last year and so far, forty this year. When MOS/Carol staffs such an event it gives exposure to MOS as an organization, and the promotion of MOS with our logo/name items (as T-Shirts and Lanyards) raises awareness to EFM and to MOS. Carol would also like to use the MOS exhibit under development for this event as well. Carol also has the campaign numbers if interested. Would like people to help place posters up in their workplace to promote such contributions in the workplace, please see Carol if you are interested in participating in this.

    EFM is not currently included in the Maryland portion of the United Way Campaign nor is it presented to MD State and Local employees as one of their giving choices. The EFM Committee is currently working to remedy this, again, opening up new possibilities for donor sources.

    EFM had hired an Assistant Director to initiate these campaign events; this was done so that the Executive Director would have time to promote EFM to private companies. The Executive Director resigned and now the Assistant Director is taking over these activities Revenues continue to be low but are beginning to increase. EFM needs time to get momentum going to increase these revenues.

12. **Gifts Committee Progress Report – Sally Ann Waldschmidt** Sally Ann kicked off her premier presentation to the Board with a stunning display of green Styrofoam peanuts, for which she received a rousing ovation from all present. Sally Ann and Norm Saunders have identified three tasks that need to be addressed this year by the Gifts Committee: 1) find out how much money is available from gifts (this is somewhere in the neighborhood of $60,000). 2) set up guidelines for applications to the Gifts Committee for grants or other expenditures. 3) provide information to potential donors so that we can maximize the growth potential of gift monies in future years.

    There is currently no overall plan or policy on how to utilize monies available to the Gifts Committee. Sally Ann feels that the money should be placed in a separate account which would allow interest earnings to augment the gifts until such time as they are spent. Sally Ann also stated that her Committee would develop a standardized request form in order to facilitate applications for use of the gifts money.

    Norm Saunders feels that a Brochure is needed to promote our Gifts Committee and to encourage people to contribute to the organization and Sally Ann hopes to have this completed by the June Board meeting for the approval of the Board. Sally Ann is also looking at the prospect of a Charitable Remainder Trust (CRT). This would allow an individual to contribute part of their stock portfolio to a charitable organization without having to pay a percentage of tax based on capital gains. Sally would like everyone to think about a plan, our priorities, and what we should do with our current cash available via the Gifts Committee for the next Board Meeting.

13. **MOS Field Checklist Reprint Request –** Larry Fry noted that we have run out of Check Lists and need to reprint more. Norm Saunders distributed a draft of a new checklist with larger type and boxes by each species name. Minor changes were noted and **a MOTION was made to reprint the Field Checklists in the new format. Motion was SECONDED and APPROVED by the Board.**

14. **WSB Team Status – Norm Saunders** said that the Board needed to approve a World Series of Birding Team for this year. **MOTION was made to sponsor WSB for 2000. The motion was SECONDED and APPROVED by the Board.**

15. **Other Old Business**

- Ed Unger Memorial Display – had been presented from the Caroline Chapter and is currently hanging in the Museum Room at Irish Grove. A reproduction of this will be printed in the next issue of ***The Yellowthroat.***

- Luther Goldman Presentation/Birthday Party – The Montgomery County Chapter held a birthday party for Luther Goldman, a distinguished birder and ornithologist who turned 90 years old. Norm Saunders presented a certificate to Luther from the State MOS organization granting him the title of "Master Maryland Birder."

- **Conservation Update – Norm Saunders (for Rich Dolesh)** CARA – Bill currently before Congress on the use of monies from Off Shore Drilling for use for Non-Game Wildlife - there is an article in the upcoming ***Yellowthroat*** on where these issues all stand. All Chapters are urged to support passage of this bill, and that more constituents should contact Connie Morella asking her support of the bill.

    A new Chesapeake Bay Agreement has been announced on agreements affecting the outlook for the Chesapeake Bay which appears to be very promising. There is also a report made available by the

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US Department of Agriculture noting the alarming loss of farm and forest land in all counties in the State; and further noting that Maryland forest loss has accelerated. Rich urges MOS landowners who own farmland to investigate the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program that is a state-run federally funded program that pays farmers to use good conservation practices on their land.

- Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay announced new recommendations and announced the list of signatories in Agreement, of which MOS is a part. Norm Saunders also received a letter from the Department of Justice, announcing the Chesapeake Bay Environmental Enforcement Coalition Environmental Hotline for violations of environmental law. The number is **1.800.377.5879.** And finally, the Smithsonian Environmental Center is doing a winter count. If you want to volunteer, the count will be held on January 8th, 2000.

16. New Business

- Pickering Creek Environmental Center sent a Thank You letter to MOS (more appropriately to the Talbot Chapter) for giving an Education-Grant-funded gift of a Scope/Tripod for use in their environmental education programs.
- Jeff Metter will be on vacation from Dec 18 – Jan 7th. If anyone needs a check during that period, contact Norm Saunders.
- Call from Maryland Public TV to follow a Christmas Count. Instead now they have decided to do a profile on Chan Robbins.
- Speakers List – Fran Saunders needs suggestions for additions to the Speakers List, which will be posted on the Web Site.
- Call from Talbot Chapter that they have been approached on a possible donation of 6 acres of waterfront property in St. Michael's. MOS will look into it, but is a very small tract of land. More at next Board Meeting.
- Karen Morley - Based on feedback from attendees at the 1999 Annual Convention, we will be selling baseball caps with the MOS logo, with the cost hopefully under $10.00. Also for sale will be a mug with the MOS logo and a listing of all chapters on the back. T-Shirts and/or Polo Shirts will also be available for purchase. Lanyards will also be available once again. A magnet with the MOS logo may also be made available for sale. All items will be available at the 2000 Annual Conference in Hagerstown.
- Linda Friedland has Montgomery County Mugs available for $7.00 apiece.
- A few MOS 1999 Annual Meeting T-shirts are still available.

A **MOTION** was made at approximately 12:12 P.M. to adjourn the meeting. The motion was **SECONDED and APPROVED**.

Decisions by the Board are marked in **BOLDFACE** type. Action items for further discussion at the board or chapter level are marked in ***BOLD ITALIC*** type.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathleen A. Neugebauer
Secretary

Minutes of the MOS Annual Meeting
May 21, 2000

President Norm Saunders opened the meeting by welcoming all attendees to this the 55th Annual Membership Meeting of the Maryland Ornithological Society. He began by introducing all of the Past Presidents of MOS who were in attendance at the Confernce and having them stand to receive an ovation of appreciation from the membership. This group included Chan Robbins, Martha Chestem, Bob Ringler, John Malcolm, Al Haury, and Bob Rineer.

The first order of business was to vote an a By-laws change recommended earlier by the MOS Board of Directors. The proposed changes, which were published in an earlier MD Yellowthroat, were concerned with revised wording regarding the makeup and selection of members of the MD/DC Records Committee. A motion was made to accept the changes as stated, the motion was seconded, and the membership then approved the proposed changes. Norm Saunders noted that the updated By-laws and Manual of Operations would both be available soon on the MOS website.

Next on the agenda was the election of officers for the 2000-2001 membership year. Dave harvey, Chair of the Nominations Committee,presented the slate of officers, Karen Morley for President, Paul Zucker for Vice President, Shiras Guion for Treasurer, and Kathy Neugebauer for Secretary. Nominations were closed and the membership then elected the proposed slate by acclamation.

Norm Saunders then turned to what he considers one of his most pleasant duties as President, the bestowal of awards for service to the organization. Valued Service Awards were presented to Dick Cleveland for his work as Chair of the Gifts Committee, to Jeff Metter for his efforts as Treasurer to bring MOS into the computer age, and to Sybil Williams for the work she did running the Annual Meeting Silent Auction and Raffle for many, many years. Additionally, Mary Ann Todd, Paul Pisano, Sue Ricciardi, Marshall Iliff, Paul O'Brien, and Harvey Mudd received Valued Service Awards for the three-year terms each had served on the MD/DC Records Committee.

Norm Saunders then introduced a new award category, that of Unsung Heros—people who worked quietly in the background over the years helping MOS to run more efficiently but seldom receiving the thanks they so richly deserved. First he presented awards to Helen Ford, John Ford, Dotty Mumford, and Bobbi Reichwein, the team that has handled the mailing of the MD Yellowthroat over at least the past ten years. Next he presented a like award to Tom Strikwerda, Martha Chestem, Shiras Guion, Norma Petersen, Martha Waugh, Don Waugh, Joanne Firman, and Fred Firman for the efforts they expend each year getting MD Birdlife addressed and in the mail. He then presented two

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special Unsung Hero Awards to people who have worked exceptionally hard for MOS and who have enhanced the reputation of MOS as a result of their tireless efforts. These were to Phil Davis for his work as Secretary of the MD/DC Records Committee and to Fran Saunders for here work as MOS Webmaster.

Norm Saunders went on to note the success of the MOS Team the MD Yellowthroats, who had once again competed quite successfully at the World Series of Birding 2000. He noted that thanks to the efforts of the team and all the members of MOS who supported the team, MOS had managed to raise over the three years the team was in existence a gross revenue figure of almost $10,000. He went on to present awards to all those who had participated on the MOS WSB Team: Hal Wierenga (1998-2000), Lynn Davidson (1998-2000), Marshall Iliff (1999-2000), Mark Hoffman (1999-2000), and Mark Garland (1998).

Finally Norm presented the MOS's highest award, the Distinguished Career Service Award to two persons who have worked with the organization for almost 50 years between the two of them, who have taken on many jobs whenever asked, and who have strived to make MOS the wonderful organization it is today. The awards were presented to Rich Dolesh and to Bob Ringler. Norm noted that this award had only been presented, to his knowledge, to two other individuals—Chan Robbins and John Malcolm.

Norm Saunders then presented a summary of accomplishments of MOS during the two years he had been President of the organization:

- The Bylaws and Manual of Operations have been brought up to date to reflect almost five years of Board actions. (Thanks to Tom Loomis)
- The MOS Budget has been significantly simplified and its presentation improved, so now the Board has a much better idea of what it is voting on and why, each March (Thanks to Paul Zucker and the entire Budget Committee)
- Fourteen vacancies among Committee Chairs have been filled and resulting in a very capable Board, ready to move forward under Karen Morley's presidency.
- A new committee has been formed, the Seasonal Counts Committee, replacing the old May Count Committee and recognizing the fact that bird counts are increasingly being carried out at different times of the year. (Thanks to Bob Ringler, Wanda Cole, Paul Jung, and Chuck Stirrat)
- Another old committee, the Cavity Nesting Committee, is being revamped and expanded with an ambitious program of nest record data entry as well as an expansion of nest record data gathering. (Thanks to Mark Johnson)
- A new winter count, along the entire length of the C&O Canal, has been carried out the past two years in partnership with the New Columbia Audubon chapter of NAS (Thanks to Peter Vankevich)
- The MOS Board has agreed that we need a set of ethical guidelines and has adopted the ABA Code of Birding Ethics as those guidelines for MOS birders and field trip leaders. Check the website for a copy of the guidelines.
- Members of MOS spoke out strongly against a bill that would have allowed Sunday hunting for forest game animals. This bill was subsequently defeated but it will be up again in the 2001 legislative season, so everyone should be in contact with their state legislators now and with DNR, as well. (Thanks to Rich Dolesh, Carol Jelich, Gail Mackiernan, and Ellen Paul for their efforts)
- A new field checklist was published, the first update since 1977. It has already been updated once, with new species and with additional information on DC birds, based on the first ever list of DC birds developed by the MD/DC Records Committee. (Thanks to the MD/DC Records Committee)
- The MOS Speaker's List is almost ready for distribution once again—watch the website for news in this area. (Thanks to Fran Saunders and Al Haury)
- The MOS World Series of Birding Team has now grossed almost $10,000 over the past three years for MOS projects and programs. They went from a third-place finish in 1998 to first place finishes in 1999 and 2000. We should be proud of this amazing team and proud to have them representing our organization in this premier event for competitive birding and conservation fund-raising! (Thanks to the entire team!)
- Over the past two years the MOS has awarded 16 scholarships from a pool of 28 applicants. These scholarships allow Maryland educators to attend summer programs in Ornithology or Ecology at National Audubon Society Camps in Maine, Connecticut, or Wyoming. (Thanks to Jean Fry)
- We have a wonderful array of promotional items this year for sale to members, to allow us to show our pride in MOS. (My thanks to Karen Morley and Don Culbertson)
- The Gifts Committee is preparing a history of gifts given to MOS over the past decade, along with information on how those gifts were used. Additionally, they have begun to promulgate guidelines for future uses of gifts money and finally, they are preparing information for dissemination to MOS members and to others who might be interested in remembering MOS in their will. (Thanks to Sally Ann Waldschmidt and her committee for their hard work)
- The MOS website now has the ability to sell birding books, optics, and other nature-related items online to our members. Later this year we hope to provide MOS products, such as the Yellow Book, mugs, hats, t-shirts, etc for sale at that site as well. (Thanks to Fran Saunders, MOS Webmaster)
- MOS is now the proud owner of a string of ISBN numbers for use in our publications. Many bookstores will not handle publications for sale unless they have an ISBN registration. (Thanks to Janet Millenson for researching the availability of the numbers and for gathering the necessary documentation to have the numbers assigned to MOS)
- The MOS has an active press release program designed to get the word out about the accomplishments and outreach efforts of the organization. The MOS has a brand new **light-weight** display board. The MOS has brand new flyers to let potential new members know about us. The MOS has a wonderful new banner to help advertise our activities. To use the display or the banner or to get copies of the flyer for your chapter, contact our Executive Secretary, Larry Fry. (Thanks to Fran Saunders, chair of the Publicity Committee)
- The proceeds ($1,900) from the Silent Auction and the Raffle from last year's conference went to the Southern Maryland Audubon Society, to fund their Native Shrub Habitat Project. The proceeds from this year ($2,300) will go to Scales & Tales to allow them to build raptor education cages at Greenbrier State Park, here in Washington County.
- A detailed inspection of the buildings at our two main sanctuaries, Irish Grove and Carey Run, has been carried out and we now have a comprehensive list of repairs and maintenance projects which need to be carried out over the coming 5-10 years. These detailed

Annual Meeting Minutes

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lists will help the Sanctuary Committee plan for major expenditures well in advance and will allow the Board to make more informed decisions regarding those expenditure requests. (Thanks to Dotty Mumford and Mike Knott)

- The Habitat Management Committee of MD Partners in Flight was asked two years ago to evaluate the MOS management practices of our six largest sanctuary properties. The final report is expected this summer but the preliminary sneak preview is that MOS has done a good job of managing the properties for wildlife. Some interesting findings have surfaced, however. These include a potential property line problem with one of our Carey Run neighbors, a dumpsite at one of our sanctuaries that we had previously been unaware of, and the remnants of an old driveway in the northern section of Irish Grove which could form the kernel of a new set of trails linking the north and south sections of that sanctuary. MOS is now positioned for some exciting developments with regard to the sanctuaries which I know my successor, Karen Morley, has in mind, so keep an eye on how these develop! (Thanks to Fred Fallon)
- Finally, in 1999, we held our Annual Conference in Southern Maryland for the first time. In 2000, we visit Washington County for the first time. As far as I'm concerned, both of these conferences have been a wonderful experience, a time to renew old acquaintances, greet friends from far-flung corners of Maryland, and work on county bird-lists. (My heartfelt thanks go our to Lou DeMouy and to Mike Callahan and to the dedicated local conference committee members.)

At this point Norm Saunders thanked the membership for giving him the opportunity to serve MOS as President. He noted that it had been a challenging two years and, for most part, a rewarding two years as well.

Since no further comments were forthcoming, the 55th Annual Membership Meeting was declared adjourned

MOS Activities
September - November, 2000

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Saturdays at Hart-Miller Island. Meet 7:00 a.m. sharp. Strenuous carry-your-scope hike, 7 miles on shifting sand and gravel under open sky with no shelter or shade; one rest stop (bathrooms) half way around the trek. Carry drinks, lunch, sunscreen and insect repellant. For shorebirds, possible rare gulls. Merlins and Peregrine Falcons in fall; Snow Buntings in winter. Maryland's best shorebird hotspot by far. For reservations, call Gene Scarpulla, (410) 388-0852 or gscarp@erols.com.

Saturday, September 2

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Glen for fall warblers. This is prime time for the adult warbler migration, and Harford Glen always has good numbers. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. at the Mansion. Harford Glen is located at the end of Wheel Road, East of MD24. For further information, contact co-leaders Mary Procell and Dennis Kirkwood at 410-692-5905.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Tucker Lane, Ashton, MD. 1/2 day. "Overgrown trails, poison ivy, slippery rocks and a creek crossing...sound intriguing?" But also excellent chance for early fall migrants. Looking for 7-8 intrepid birders for a morning of woodland birding along Patuxent River watershed. Meet at 7:15 at Ashton Village Center (near 7-11) at intersection of Rts. 108 & 650. Call leader for reservations Leader: Rick Sussman 301 774-1185

Sunday, September 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Loch Raven. Waterfowl and land birds; Bald Eagle, Bluebirds, Fox Sparrow possible. Telescopes useful. Two-mile level walk. Beginners welcome. For further information, contact the leader, Debbie Terry, at 410-252-8771 or gt5s@erols.com.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday morning walk to Tilghman Island for Gulls to warblers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at St. Michaels Village Shopping Center parking lot adjacent to Talbot Bank, St. Michaels. Leader: Jan Reese 410-745-2875.

Tuesday, September 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Chris Manning, at 410-668-8713.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Birding the Other Aleutians" by Scott Crabtree. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Wednesday, September 6

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz (410) 833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, (410) 435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Cranes of China" by Bob Ringler. Meet 7:30 pm at Carroll Community College, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Saturday, September 9

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of walks co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Meyers, at 410-435-2008, or call the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550 for a complete list of trip dates.

MOS Activities

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FIELD TRIP. Cecil. The Seasons at Fair Hill - w/ DOS. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Fair Hill Nature Center Covered Bridge Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Scott Powers, at 410-658-2368.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Anita Leight Estuary Center. The State MOS board meeting starts at 10:00 a.m., but for those avid birdwatchers, Mark Johnson will be leading a morning walk at the Estuary center and Bosley Conservancy. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. at the Anita Leight Estuary Center parking lot. Target species are Worm-eating Warblers, American Redstarts and other neo-tropical migrants. Contact Mark Johnson at 410-692-5978 for further information.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. Lillypons, one of our favorite Frederick County birding sites. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Rt. 66 Park 'n Ride. Leader: Ann Mitchell, 301-432-2021.

Sunday, September 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Black Marsh Wildlands. Trip to North Point State Park to see migrating butterflies and a variety of birds on land, marsh and open water. 2 mile level walk. Telescopes useful. For further information and directions, contact the leaders, Brent and Mary Byers, at 410-686-7294.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Presidents' Day Walk At Seneca,1/2 day Participation of all former Chapter Presidents is encouraged and everyone is welcome. Bring lunch for a post-walk picnic. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at parking lot at end of Riley's Lock Rd. off River Rd. Honorary leaders: Current and former Presidents participating Questions: Mike Bowen, 301 530-5764

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk to Lloyd' s Landing for a diversity of habitat and birds on middle Choptank River. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Wayne Bell 410-820-6002; Wayne.Bell@washcoll.edu).

Monday, September 11

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday walk at Centennial Park. 3 hours. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at West end lot. Easy walk around the lake to see if migrants are moving. Facilties available Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

Tuesday, September 12

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Paul Noell, at 410-243-2652.

Wednesday, September 13

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rock Creek Park, DC, 1/2 day. Migrant warblers, vireos and sparrows. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at Picnic Area #18 (1/2 mile below Nature Center on Ridge Rd.) If unsure of directions, call leader. Reservations not required. Leader: Bill Dobbins, 202 338-1321

Thursday, September 14

MEETING. Howard. "Patuxent Wildlife Research Center: Sixty years of Research and Management," by Matt Perry. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/ Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. " Hart-Miller Island: A Brief History through Time " by Gene Scarpulla, Baltimore County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD

MEETING. Talbot. "Technicolor algae blooms: red tides, brown tides, mahogany tides; so what?" by Dr. Patricia Glibert, Horn Point. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Laboratory. Second Annual Chesapeake Bay Lecture.

Friday-Sunday, September 15-17

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Weekend at Assateague. Trip leader, Mark Hoffman, says this is the time & the place for the Philadelphia Vireo. Also for the Lark Sparrow. Limited accommodations. For details, contact Amy Hoffman at 410-549-3598.

Saturday, September 16

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Ft. McHenry Clean Up. General public invited to help restore this mitigated (man-made) marsh by removing debris and planting native vegetation. Rain or shine. Register in advance with the Aquarium volunteer office, 410-576-3886. Meet at Fort McHenry just past the statue of Orpheus. Bring Lunch, all-day trip.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Hawk Watch at Steppingstone Farm Museum. Harford Bird Club will be part of an outdoor adventure expo at Susquehanna State Park from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 pm. Contact Dave Powell at 410-452-5806 for further information.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Meadowside Nature Center And Area, 1/2 day. "Challenging" fall warblers, migrant landbirds. Meet at 7:30 a.m at nature center. Call leader for directions: no reservations necessary. Leader: Rick Sussman 301 774-1185

Sunday, September 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Migrants at Rockburn Park. 1/2 day. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at Park office off Landing Rd. Moderate/difficult walking through varied habitats of field and woodland for fall warblers, migrant hawks and other flyovers. Paths may be muddy. Facilties available. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Layhill Park, 1/2 day. Migrant sparrows, warblers and other woodland and edge birds. Waterproof boots and long pants essential. Meet at 7:00 a.m at first available parking space on left after pulling into park. Call either leader for reservations and directions. Limit:8 Leader: Gemma Radko 301 607-4374 & Andy Rabin 301 216-1524

MOS Activities

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FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Pickering Creek Environmental Education Center: Woods to waterfront. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. Leader: Les Roslund 410-763-8169; Lroslund@bluecrab.org.

Tuesday, September 19

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Josie Gray, at 410-922-1837.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mariner Point Park. Join Tom Congersky (410-676-6489) for a leisurely beginner walk through the county park. Target species are migrating fall warblers and late shorebirds. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. at the last parking area.

Thursday, September 21

MEETING. Caroline. "How to Attract Birds to your Backyard." Presented by a Panel from the Club. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Friday-Sunday, September 22-24

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Cape May Weekend. 3 day trip- Leaders Darius Ecker and Jeff Friedhoffer. This will be a three day extravaganza of birding and fun. We will take the ferry from Lewes DE on Friday morning . We will stay in Cape May and bird, bird, bird! Call Jeff Friedhoffer for info and to reserve a spot at 410-997-5366.

Saturday, September 23

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Oregon Ridge Nature Center. Bluebirds, migrant warblers and other songbirds, possible hawk flight. Last year's count was over 1000 hawks including Osprey, Bald Eagle, Merlin and Peregrine. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Oregon Ridge Nature Center. For further information, contact the leader, Gail Frantz, at 410-833-7135.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at Pine Valley Park. A moderate walk around Manchester's wonderful park. It's migration time so you don't know what you'll see. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride on Rt. 27 in Manchester. For more information, contact trip leader Bob Ringler at 410-549-6031.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Cape May, NJ - Fall Migration. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. Full Day. For further information, contact the leaders, Sean McCandless, at 410-392-3407 or Parke John, at 410-287-6037.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. A 3/4-day trip to Jug Bay, where Naturalist Greg Kearns will give a boat ride looking for migrating Sora Rails. The other stop will be Merkle Wildlife Management Area to look for Blue Grosbeak and migrating warblers. Bring a bag lunch. Meeting place will be the MD 152 / I-95 Park and Ride at 6:30 a.m.. Limited space available, Call Randy Robertson at 410-273-9029 to make a reservation.

Sunday, September 24

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Kevin's Hawkwatch. Hawkwatch at Kevin Graff's yard. Probable major flight of Broad-winged and other hawks. Limit 5 people. Call leader, Peter Lev, 410-823-2962, to reserve your place.

BIRD WALK. Caroline and Talbot. Horsehead Sanctuary. For more information, call Danny Poet at 410-827-8651 or email - dannypoet@usa.net.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Snickers Gap, VA, 1/2 day. Around the peak time of the BROADWING HAWK Migration. Meet at 9:00 AM at parking lot at the southwest corner of Rt. 7 and 601 (right after the exit for Bluemont). Convenience Store with homemade fruit pies 4 miles east of Snickers Gap right on Rt. 7. Contact Leaders for more information Leaders: Joan Boudreau & Bob Abrams 703 734-1238

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Central Turf Farm & Horsehead Wetland Center: Waterfowl; upland shorebirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Danny Poet (410-827-8651; dannypoet@usa.net).

Tuesday, September 26

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Mary Jo Campbell, at 410-825-2704.

MEETING. Washington. Potluck Dinner at 6:30 p.m. & Monthly Meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Bring a covered dish to share. Floyd Murdock, our speaker for the evening, will be giving us a tour and talk about the Mt. Aetna Nature Center. Contact Janet Shields, 301-416-7109 for further information.

Wednesday, September 27

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday walk at Gwynn Acres. 2 hours. Meet at Old Columbia and Ram's Horn Rd at 8:30 a.m. Walk the paved woodland path along the stream for fall migrants. No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

Saturday-Sunday, September 30-October 1

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Special Weekend Trip Leader: Harry Armistead (215-248-4120; contact by email at 74077.3176@compuserve.com). Kiptopeke and Eastern Shore of Virginia: Hawkwatch; possible migrant fallout. Meet at Kiptopeke State Park Hawkwatch. Make reservation well in advance. Contact Harry Armistead about where to stay.

Saturday, September 30

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Kevin's Hawkwatch at Kevin Graff's yard in east Baltimore. Strong chance for major hawk flight. Limit 5 people. Call Pete Webb, at 410-486-1217, or pwebb@bcpl.net, to reserve your place.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point w/ DOS. Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Fall Migration at Schooley Mill park. 1/2 day. Meet at upper lot at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Daryl Olsen. Walk this varied habitat of field and woodlands for fall migrants. Great place for flyovers. Paths may be muddy and facilities available. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Potomac River Bird Paddle, 1/2 day. Riverine species and some migrants. We'll canoe upstream from the Sycamore Island Club. A waiver of liability will be required for each participant. Call leader for reservations and more information. Limit 18. Leader: David Winer, 301 229-8963

Sunday, October 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Turkey Point Hawk Watch. Join Cecil County Hawk Watchers looking for migrating hawks and eagles. Turkey Point is also a great place for seeing Cedar Waxwings, Red-headed Woodpeckers and migrating warblers. Meeting place will be the MD 155 / I-95 Park and Ride at 7:30 a.m.. For further information, contact Phil Powers at 410-679-4116.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Confusing fall warblers at Middle Patuxent Environmental Area. 3 hours. Meet at Board of Education building on Rt 108 at 7:30 a.m. to carpool to Trotter Rd . Leader: David Holmes. Walk through the woodlands and along the river for fall migrants. Paths may be muddy, no facilties. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361

Tuesday, October 3

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Dot Gustafson, at 410-377-4120.

MEETING. Baltimore. "Eastern Australia" by Dave Harvey. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Font Hill weekday walk. 2 hours. Meet at sign on Font Hill Drive at 8:30 a.m. Walk this little gem of a wetland park to look for swamp sparrows and other fall migrants. No facilites, call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

Wednesday, October 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz (410) 833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, (410) 435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Kilamanjaro to the Mountains of the Moon" by Craig Sholley. Meet 7:30 pm at Carroll Community College, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Saturday, October 7

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Hawkwatch at Turkey Point, Elk Neck Forest. Co-sponsored with Cecil County Bird Club. Watch for migrant hawks on this peninsula that juts out into the top of the Chesapeake Bay. Stay the afternoon. if the hawks are moving. Easy walking, 1/2 mile to the viewing area. Folding chairs useful. Leader there (9:00 a.m.): Richard Donham. Coordinator: Pete Webb, 410-486-1217 or email pwebb@bcpl.net. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at White Marsh Mall, NE side of Sears. Bring Lunch, all-day trip.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point w/BBC. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. All day. For further information, contact the leader, Richard Donham, at 410-932-0634.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Sparrow Extravaganza at Mt. Pleasant. 1/2 day. Meet at shed at 7:00 a.m. Be prepared for a long difficult walk to search for 10 (or more?) species of sparrows. Facilties available. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Little Bennett Park, 1/2 day. Everyone welcome, especially new birders to enjoy this area of varied habitats and birdlife. Late migrant warblers and vireos, early sparrows, some raptors possible. For reservations and time and place to meet, contact the leader. Leader: Gemma Radko 301 607-4374

Sunday, October 8

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FALL PELOT SANCTUARY CLEANUP. Caroline. 1:00 pm. Raindate Oct 15. For more information, contact Bill Scudder at 410-479-3590.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Spectacular Sparrows at the University of Maryland Central farm. 1/2 day. Meet at farm lot at 7:00 a.m. This will be a two part walk. The first leg will be very wet and will need high boots , then we will change footwear for the latter dry half. Difficult and long walking, no facilities. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Easton Water Treatment Facility: Early waterfowl and late departures. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Dick Kleen (410-745-5482).

Monday, October 9

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Susquehanna State Park - Join Rick Blom and Les Eastman on a walk through Susquehanna State Park. Target species will be hard to find Sparrow species and late migrants. Meeting time is 7:00 a.m. at the Deer Creek Trestle parking lot. Trip Coordinator Les Eastman can be reached at 410-734-6969 if you have any questions.

Tuesday, October 10

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Matilda Weiss, at 410-337-2732.

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

Thursday, October 12

MEETING. Howard. "Birds of Eastern Australia and Papua New Guinea," by Dave Harvey. Programs are held at Longfellow Elementary School, 5470 Hesperus Drive, Columbia. Hospitality session and club bookstore at 7:30 p.m. Meeting/Program begins at 8:00 p.m. For further information contact Don Waugh at 410-381-8841.

MEETING. Montgomery. " Israel: The Billion Bird Flight " by Gail MacKiernan, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD.

MEETING. Talbot. "Hart-Miller Island: a brief history through time" by Gene Scapula, Baltimore Bird Club. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at SunTrust (formerly Crestar) Bank Maryland Room (basement meeting room), Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, Easton. Enter from parking lot behind building.

Saturday, October 14

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Hawk Identification. Meet at 8:30 a.m. at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. 1/2 day. For further information, contact the leader, Marcia Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Hawk watch at Meadowbrook. All day. Meet at Route 100 park and ride at 9:30 a.m. Leader: Ralph Geuder. Bring a chair and sustenance to sit and watch the hawks fly. Feel free to bring boots for a foray into the wetland area. Come for a little while or for the day. Fast food and grocery store within a few minutes drive of the P & R. Call Bonnie for info 410-461-3361.

FIELD TRIP. Washington. We're going to Town Hill to look for Golden Eagles and other raptors during the migration. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Dept. of Motor Vehicles Park 'n Ride on Rt. 65. Leader: Judy Lilga, 301-432-2276.

Sunday, October 15

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Meadowbrook, Howard County Sparrow Walk. This trip includes walking in an undeveloped brushy swampy area. There are no facilities and boots are a necessity. However, the sparrows love it! Possible White-crowned, Lincoln's and Swamp Sparrows and Willow Flycatcher. Meet at the Park & Ride lot off Rt. 100, first exit east of Rt. 29 on the northern outskirts of Columbia. For further information, contact the leader, Scott Crabtree, at 410-945-1042.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Bombay Hook NWR, Smyrna, DE. 1/2 day. Waterfowl and passerines-which might include Least Bittern, Redhead, King Rail, Common Moorhen, Golden Plover, Black-necked Stilt, Hudsonian Godwit, Red Knot, Long Billed Dowitcher, Yellow-throated Vireo, Willow Flycatcher and White-crowned Sparrow. Meet at 8:00 a.m. (early birders will meet at 6 a.m. for 2-hr preview) at Main Visitor Center. Group limited to 15. Call leaders for reservation and directions to Bombay Hook. Leaders: Jay and Diane Jones 301 670-0516

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Sheehan DuPont Audubon Sanctuary: Brown-headed nuthatches, migrant waterbirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. Leader: Les Roslund (410-763-8169; Lroslund@bluecrab.org).

Tuesday, October 17

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Lake Roland. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the footbridge in Robert E. Lee Park. For further information, contact the leader, Ruth Culbertson, at 410-825-1379.

Saturday, October 21

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Birding For Waterfowl by Catamaran. Reservations necessary. Glenn Swiston, Baltimore County naturalist, will be our Captain as we cruise Dundee Creek observing its migrating waterfowl up close and personal. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Dundee Creek Marina. Catamaran spaces are limited, so reserve yours early by contacting the coordinator Bea Nicholls, 410-687-1461 or e-mail birderbea@aol.com

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Broad Creek Scout Camp. The moderately difficult hike will take you through several different habitats. Target species will be Fox Sparrow, Hermit Thrush and incoming winter migrants. Meeting time is 7:00 a.m. at Dublin Elementary school on MD136. Trip leader Spike Updegrove can be reached at 410-838-1783 if you have any questions.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. The BIG SIT. All day. Leader: Kurt Schwarz. Meet at the south side of the wildlife end at Centennial Park. Join us for as little or as long as you like. We will spend the day in our 17 foot circle and count as many species as possible. Bring a chair and sustenance. Facilities available. Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

Sunday, October 22

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Soldier's Delight Serpentine Barrens. One of Baltimore county's most unique areas with a variety of birds which includes: Chats, Prairie Warblers, Veery, Yellow- throated Vireo, Pileated Woodpeckers, Scarlet Tanagers and many other species. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information and directions, contact the leader, Joe McDaniel, at 410-356-3820 or e-mail jrmcdaniel@home.com

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Rachel Carson Conservation Park, 1/2 day. Woodpeckers, sparrows, early waterfowl, at this beautiful new, underdeveloped park in N. Montgomery County Co. Old fields, hedgerows, woodlands and ponds. Meet at 7:30 a.m. Call leader for meeting place. Leader: Rob Gibbs, 301 253-6903

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Ferry Neck: A diversity of water- and landbirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. Leader: Les Coble (410-820-6165; lescoble@Friend.ly.Net).

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

Tuesday, October 24

MEETING. Washington. Don Messersmith, Professor Emeritus at the University of Maryland and world traveler will talk about Birding the Antarctic. For more information contact Jane Shields, 301-416-7109.

Wednesday, October 25

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Weekday walk at David Force. 2 hours. Meet at sign on Pebble Beach drive. Walk this mixed habitat of woodlands and fields. Paths may be muddy. No facilities, Call Bonnie for info. 410-461-3361.

Thursday, October 26

MEETING. Caroline. "Rare Birds in Maryland" presented by Paul O'Brien. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, October 28

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Northampton Furnace Trail. Level walk through mixed woods and brushy habitats to edge of Loch Raven Reservoir. Good chance for Winter Wrens, late lingering Robins, and some waterfowl. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at Dulaney Valley Road and Chapelwood Lane, 2 miles north of Beltway exit 27. For further information, contact the leader, Joy Wheeler, at 410-825-1204.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at Hashawa. Anyone for a Fox Sparrow? Let's see what else we can find. Meet 8:00 a.m. at Bear Branch Nature Center, Westminster. For more information, contact trip leader Jerry Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Turkey Point Owls. Meet at 7:00 pm at the Turkey Point Parking Lot. 2-3 hours. For further information, contact the leader, Scott Powers, at 410-658-2369.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Mullins County Park. Need practice on those "little brown jobs", Mullins Park is a great place to practice. Other possible species include Northern Harrier and Common Snipe. Waterproof footwear is recommended. Meeting time is 7:30 a.m. at Weis Market on US 40 in Havre de Grace. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Powell, at 410-452-5806.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Waggoner's Gap, PA. 2/3 day. 100+ miles from Washington Beltway but worth the trip. Excellent location for peak time of GOSHAWKS and GOLDEN EAGLES. Scopes are helpful, dress warmly and bring a cushion and food(the rocks are cold and hard and once you climb the rock pile it can by an annoyance to have to go back to cars). Call Leaders for information and reservations. Leaders: Joan Boudreau & Bob Abrams 703/734-1238

Sunday, October 29

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cylburn Self-guided Walk. Meet at 8:00 a.m. on the front porch for easy birding without a designated leader. Cylburn Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore. Coordinator: Joe Lewandowski, (410) 358-7834 or ilenel@juno.com.

FIELD TRIP. Howard. Meadowbrook Park. 3 hours. Leader: Kurt Schwarz. Meet at Long Gate park and ride. Walk this wetland and field area. Boots a must! No facilities. Call Bonnie for info 410-461 3361.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Howell' s Point: Winter residents from waterfowl to landlubbers. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Paul Spitzer (410-476-5163; spitzer_paul@hotmail.com).

Wednesday, November 1

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. First Wednesdays at Ft. McHenry. Monthly survey of bird activity at the wetland. Folding chair and telescope useful. Cancelled in bad weather (high winds, fog, rain). Meet 9:30 a.m. at Fort McHenry. From the entrance, the wetlands are to the right. Meet just past the statue of Orpheus. Coordinators Gail Frantz (410) 833-7135, guineabird@aol.com, and Catherine Bishop, (410) 435-9569.

MEETING. Carroll. "Birding Israel during Spring Migration" by Gail Mackiernan. Meet 7:30 pm at Carroll Community College, Westminster. For more information, call Laura Tarbell at 410-857-1109.

Saturday, November 4

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of walks co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Meyers, at 410-435-2008, or call the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550 for a complete list of trip dates.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Walk at Piney Run Park. It's time again to look at waterfowl so don't forget your binoculars & telescopes. Meet 8:00 a.m. at the park's gate on Martz Rd, Sykesville. For more information, contact trip leader Dave Harvey at 410-795-3117.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Owl Prowl. An early evening search for Owls near Rocks State Park. Possible species include Great Horned Owl, Barred Owl, Eastern Screech Owl and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Meet at 4:30 pm at the Forest Hill Klein's, intersection of MD23 & MD24. For further information, contact the leaders, Harold Boling at 410-638-5318 or Debbie Bowers at 410-692-9741.

Sunday, November 5

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Horsehead Wetlands Sanctuary. Half-day trip to see wild ducks, captive breeding birds and birds of prey in rehabilitation area. Walk trails and boardwalk over the marsh. Observation towers overlook east side of Kent Island. Easy walking. Telescopes useful. Entrance fee waived for BBC members. Option to meet there 8:00 a.m. or at 7:00 a.m. at the Nursery Rd.-Hammonds Ferry Rd. Park & Ride at Beltway exit 8. For further information, contact the coordinator, Terry Ross, at 410-467-8137 or email: tross@bcpl.net.

FIELD TRIP. Carroll. Bird Watching at Town Hill. Fall migration for accipiters is in full swing & you never know who might be flying overhead. Last year, the Northern Goshawk was seen! Come all day (don't forget to bring a lunch) or even just part of the day. Meet 7:00 a.m. at the Park & Ride at Rt. 32 & I-70. Greg Klein, 410-840-9384, will lead the caravan to meet trip leader Mark Hoffman, 410-549-3598, at Town Hill.

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Blackwater NWR: Bald Eagle (and maybe a Golden?), wintering waterfowl. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Leader: Roger Stone (410-770-9636).

MOS Activities

(continued from previous page)

Tuesday, November 7

MEETING. Baltimore. Mystery Program to be announced in Chip Notes. 7:30 p.m. at Cylburn Mansion. The Mansion is located off Greenspring Avenue one block south of Northern Parkway (accessible from I-83 Northern Parkway exit south of the Beltway) in Baltimore.

Thursday, November 9

MEETING. Montgomery. " The Maryland/DC Records Committee: What it is, How it works, and How you can help Document Rarities."" by Paul O'Brien, Montgomery County Chapter, MOS. 7:30 p.m. at the Potomac Presbyterian Church, 10301 River Road, Potomac, MD

MEETING. Talbot. "There are no warblers in Australia" by Dr. Donald Meritt, Horn Point Laboratory and Talbot MOS Chapter. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at SunTrust (formerly Crestar) Bank Maryland Room (basement meeting room), Goldsborough and Harrison Streets, Easton. Enter from parking lot behind building.

Friday-Sunday, November 10-12

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Waterfowl Festival Display and Morning Walks. Contact the coordinator, Austin Farley (410-822-7871; austin@goeaston.net), for more .

Saturday, November 11

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Avalon Seawatch (w/ possible side trip to Cape May Hawk Watch). Meet at 7:30 a.m. at the Cecil Community Collage Parking Lot. 3/4 day. For further information, contact the leaders, Leslie Fisher, at 410-658-2427 or Marcia Whitmyre, at 410-398-0125.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Saw-Whet Owl Banding Station, 1/2 night. Visit Banding Station at South Mountain, MD to see saw-whet owl banding by Steve Huy. Meet at 9 p.m. at Rt. 80 Park and Ride (off Rt. 270). Limit 15. Call leader for reservations (required) and more information. November 12 for rain date. Leader: Gemma Radko 301 607-4374

Sunday, November 12

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Harford Waterfowl Trip. Marvel at the thousands of Lesser Scaup on the Gunpowder River, and search among them for the occasional Redhead, Long-tailed Duck (A.K.A. Oldsquaw) and scoters. Then visit Havre de Grace for a wide variety of waterfowl including American Wigeon, Northern Shoveler and Tundra Swan. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the MD 24 gate to the Edgewood Area of the Aberdeen Proving Ground. Scopes are helpful, although not necessary. For further information, contact the leader, Dave Webb at 410-939-3537.

Thursday, November 16

MEETING. Caroline. "Birding in Belize" presented by Dr. Robert Trever. Meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Caroline County Public Library, Denton Meeting Room, 100 Market Street, Denton, MD.

Saturday, November 18

FIELD TRIP. Baltimore. Cromwell Valley Park. A series of walks co-sponsored by the Wild Bird Center. Diverse habitats include a stream, a pond, woods and fields. Expect to see a variety of resident and migrant birds. Meet at 8:00 a.m. For further information, contact the leader, Jim Meyers, at 410-435-2008, or call the Wild Bird Center at 410-666-4550 for a complete list of trip dates.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Sandy Point State Park, Anne Arundel County (1/2 Day) To Blackwater NWR (full day)-Wintering waterfowl, other waterbirds, some landbirds. Reservations not required but please call leader for more information. Meet just beyond park toll booth at 9 a.m. (no entrance fee this time of year) Leader: Don Messersmith, 301 593-5942

Sunday, November 19

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Eastern Neck NWR. Prime winter birding area fronting the Chesapeake Bay in Kent County. Excellent for swans, bay ducks, Northern Harrier and Horned Larks. Bring lunch; all day trip with easy walking. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the I-95 & MD 155 commuter lot (Havre de Grace exit). For further information, contact the leaders, Larry and Jean Fry, at 410-452-8539.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Lilypons - New Design Rd, 1/2 day. Wintering field birds, targeting fox and tree sparrows and possible loggerhead shrike. Will include stop at Black Hill Reservoir, if conditions look good for waterbirds. Call leader for reservations (required) and more information. Leader: Gail MacKiernan 301 989-1828

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Day Trip. Elliott' s Island: Marsh birds, waterfowl, and winter residents in for the long haul. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the parking lot in front of the Acme in the Tred Avon Shopping Center in Easton. Co-leaders: Paul Spitzer (410-476-5163; spitzer_paul@hotmail.com), and Wayne Bell (410-820-6002; Wayne.Bell@washcoll.edu).

Saturday, November 25

FIELD TRIP. Cecil. Bombay Hook NWR. & Little Creek WMA. Meet at 8:00 a.m. at the Big Elk Mall Dunkin Doughnuts Parking Lot Area. All day. For further information, contact the leader, Richard Donham, at 410-932-0634.

FIELD TRIP. Harford. Conowingo Dam. One of the best locations for mid-Atlantic birding at this time of year. The dam hosts dozens of Bald Eagles and thousands of gulls. Other possible sightings include Golden Eagle, Black-crowned Night Heron and Pileated Woodpecker. Scopes are helpful. Meet trip leader Dave Larkin (410-569-8319) at 8:00 a.m. at the pavilion at the North end of Fisherman's Park, which is located at the end of Shures Landing Road.

FIELD TRIP. Montgomery. Point Lookout State Park, 2/3 day. Excellent site for wintering waterfowl with possibility of surprises. We'll also visit some other locations along the lower Patuxent River. Easy 2-hour drive from DC area. Reservations required. Limit:12. Call leader for reservation, time and place to meet. Leader: Greg Miller 301 373-3452

Sunday, November 26

FIELD TRIP. Talbot. Sunday Morning Walk. Tilghman Island: Wintering waterfowl and lingering landbirds. Meet at 7:00 a.m. at the St. Michaels Village Shopping Center next to the Talbot Bank. Leader: Jan Reese (410-745-2875).

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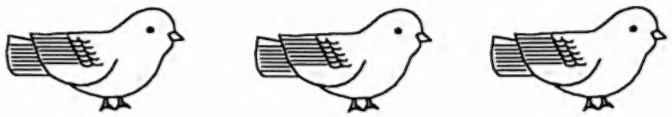

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The copy deadline for the Nov/Dec issue of the Yellowthroat is September 25 for chapter activities and October 1 for all other submissions.

Send calendar entries for November-January to:

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